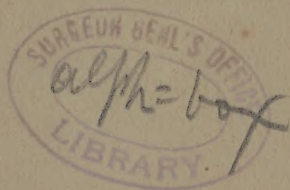


SLAFTER (ED. F.)

New-England  
Historic, Genealogical Society.  
—  
Quarter-Century  
Anniversary Discourse.





# DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

NEW-ENGLAND HISTORIC, GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY,

BOSTON, MARCH 18, 1870,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

## TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

OF ITS INCORPORATION.

✓  
BY THE REV. EDMUND F. SLAFTER, A.M.,

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY.

WITH PROCEEDINGS AND APPENDIX.



LIBRARY  
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BOSTON:

NEW-ENGLAND HISTORIC, GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

M. DCCC. LXX.

# PROCEEDINGS.

Society's Room, 17 Beacon Street,  
Boston, 21st Avenue, 1870.

The Rev. EDWARD T. SLATER, A.M.

Reverend and dear Sir,—

At a late meeting of the New-England Historical and  
Antiquarian Society, the subject of observing its twenty-fifth anni-  
versary was referred to the Board of Directors.  
Subsequently, at a meeting of the Board, the following resolutions

IT IS NOT THE LEAST DEBT WHICH WE OWE UNTO HISTORY, THAT IT HATH MADE US  
ACQUAINTED WITH OUR DEAD ANCESTORS, AND DELIVERED US THEIR MEMORY AND  
FAME.—*Sir Walter Raleigh.*

Resolved.—That an address be delivered on that occasion on the  
history and future work of the Society.  
In furtherance of the purpose expressed in the foregoing resolu-  
tions, the undersigned, having been appointed a committee to make  
the necessary arrangements, tender to you most cordially our warm-  
most request that you will deliver an address before the Society on  
the approaching twenty-fifth anniversary of its incorporation, which  
will occur on the 18th day of March, 1870.

With sentiments of esteem and regard,

We remain, dear Sir, most respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

MARSHALL P. WILDER

THOMAS HALL

WILLIAM LEWIS

JOHN H. BARTON

W. L. LORAN

CHARLES H. HALL

WILLIAM H. TOWSE

E. E. HUNTER

C. W. TAYLOR

CHARLES J. HODGE

DAVID CLAPP & SON, PRINTERS, BOSTON.



# PROCEEDINGS.

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SOCIETY'S ROOMS, 17 BROMFIELD STREET,  
BOSTON, 31st AUGUST, 1869.

The Rev. EDMUND F. SLAFTER, A.M.

Reverend and dear Sir,—

At a late meeting of the NEW-ENGLAND HISTORIC, GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, the subject of observing its twenty-fifth anniversary was referred to the Board of Directors.

Subsequently, at a meeting of the board, the following resolutions were adopted:—

*Resolved*,—That it is expedient to observe the twenty-fifth anniversary of the incorporation of this Society.

*Resolved*,—That an address be delivered on that occasion on the history and future work of the Society.

In furtherance of the purpose expressed in the foregoing resolutions, the undersigned, having been appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements, tender to you most cordially our unanimous request that you will deliver an address before the Society on the approaching twenty-fifth anniversary of its incorporation, which will occur on the 18th day of March, 1870.

With sentiments of esteem and regard,

We remain, dear sir, most respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

MARSHALL P. WILDER.  
HILAND HALL.  
WINSLOW LEWIS.  
JOHN R. BARTLETT.  
GEO. B. UPTON.  
CHARLES H. BELL.  
WILLIAM B. TOWNE.  
E. E. BOURNE.  
C. W. TUTTLE.  
CHARLES J. HOADLY.

11 BEACON STREET, BOSTON,  
25th OCTOBER, 1869.

GENTLEMEN :—

I have had the honor to receive your communication, requesting me to deliver an historical discourse on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the New-England Historic, Genealogical Society. After much hesitation and with great diffidence as to my ability to deal with the subject as its importance deserves, I have decided to accept your invitation.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

EDMUND F. SLAFTER.

The Hon. MARSHALL P. WILDER, Boston, Mass.

The Hon. HILAND HALL, Bennington, Vt.

WINSLOW LEWIS, M.D., Boston, Mass.

The Hon. JOHN R. BARTLETT, Providence, R. I.

The Hon. GEORGE B. UPTON, Boston, Mass.

The Hon. CHARLES H. BELL, Exeter, N. H.

WM. B. TOWNE, Esq., Milford, N. H.

The Hon. EDWARD E. BOURNE, Kennebunk, Me.

CHARLES W. TUTTLE, Esq., Boston, Mass.

CHARLES J. HOADLY, Esq., Hartford, Conn.

The Discourse was delivered in Horticultural Hall, Tremont street, Boston, on the afternoon of the 18th of March, 1870, in the presence of over four hundred persons, members of the Society and invited guests.

The Hon. MARSHALL P. WILDER, the president, in calling the meeting to order, spoke briefly as follows :—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—

In the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of this Society, we desire to recognize the Divine Goodness which has preserved, prospered and raised it from its small beginning to its present flourishing state; and while we gather here to recall and cherish the memories of the past, and contemplate the duties and responsibilities of the future, we desire also to make a record of our progress, in the

proceedings of this day, which shall survive when the faces that now gladden this presence, and those of us, who are now active members, shall have passed from the scenes of earth.

Prayer was then offered by the Rev. JAMES H. MEANS, A.M., of the Second Church in Dorchester.

After the address, the Doxology was sung by the assembly, led by the Rev. JAMES AIKEN, and a benediction was pronounced by the Rev. MR. MEANS.

At the monthly meeting of the Society held at their rooms on Wednesday, April 6, 1870, the following resolution, offered by ALBERT H. HOYT, Esq., was adopted.

*Resolved*,—That the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. EDMUND F. SLAFTER for his appropriate, learned and eloquent discourse, delivered on the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its incorporation, and that a copy thereof be requested for publication.

The Discourse was delivered in Horticultural Hall, Tremont street, Boston, on the afternoon of the 1st of March, 1870, in the presence of over four hundred persons, members of the Society and invited guests.

The Hon. MARSHALL F. WYDER, the president, in calling the meeting to order, spoke briefly as follows:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

In the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of this Society, we desire to recognize the Divine Goodness which has preserved, prepared and raised it from its small beginning to its present flourishing state; and while we gather here to recall and cherish the memories of the past and contemplate the duties and responsibilities of the future, we desire also to make a record of our progress, in the







# DISCOURSE.

By the Rev. EDMUND F. SLAFTER, A.M.

# DISCOURSE.

In the autumn of 1844, there were several gentlemen residing in the city of Boston, who added to a long cherished taste for antiquarian subjects in general, a deep interest in historical and genealogical studies, and had already made wide explorations in this hitherto unrecognized, but important field of investigation. After casual consultations with each other, reaching through some months anterior to this, they met, at the residence of one of their number, where they entered into a full and free discussion of the expediency of associated effort in behalf of their favorite study. At a second meeting held on the 1st of November of the same year, they advanced so far as to appoint a chairman and secretary, to determine upon the establishment of a Society, to discuss the name that should be given to it, and to provide for its proper organization.

Successive meetings continued to be held at frequent intervals during the next three months, at which we find that the Society had been organized, a full corps of officers elected, a compact but com-

\* This meeting was in October, 1844, at the house of William H. Montague, Esq., No. 1 Orange-street. Those were present, besides Mr. Montague, Charles Esqr. Esq., Leonard Shattuck, Esq., and John Wingate Thomson, Esq. No formal action was taken at this meeting.

\* This meeting was at the residence of Leonard Shattuck, Esq., No. 75 Harrison Avenue. Those were present, Mr. Charles Esqr., Mr. Samuel G. Drake, J. Wingate Thomson, Esq., Mr. William H. Montague, and Mr. Shattuck. Mr. Esqr. was chosen chairman, and Mr. Thomson secretary.

Until March, 1845, the meetings of the Society were held severally at the law-office of Mr. Thomson, No. 20 Court-street, at the residence of Mr. S. G. Drake, No. 56 Cornhill, and at the house of Mr. Shattuck, as above. On the 15th of March, 1845, the Society met at the rooms of the American Education Society, No. 15 Cornhill, and continued to hold its regular meetings at the same place for the space of a year. This was a commodious room on the second floor of the four-story building, now in the joint occupancy of the American Education and Massachusetts Indian Societies. All the subsequent meetings of the Society have been held at their own rooms, with the exception of a few commemorative and other occasions, where arrangements have been made. For a full account of the different arrangements made by the Society see note further on, under the subject of a new building.

## DISCOURSE.

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IN the autumn of 1844, there were several gentlemen residing in the city of Boston, who added to a long cherished taste for antiquarian subjects in general, a deep interest in historical and genealogical studies, and had already made wide explorations in this hitherto unrecognized, but important field of investigation. After casual consultations with each other, reaching through some months anterior to this, they met<sup>1</sup> at the residence of one of their number, where they entered into a full and free discussion of the expediency of associated effort in behalf of their favorite study. At a second<sup>2</sup> meeting held on the 1st of November of the same year, they advanced so far as to appoint a chairman and secretary, to determine upon the establishment of a Society, to discuss the name that should be given to it, and to provide for its proper organization.

Successive meetings continued to be held at frequent intervals, during the next three months, at which we find that the Society had been organized, a full corps of officers elected, a compact but com-

<sup>1</sup> This meeting was in October, 1844, at the house of William H. Montague, Esq., No. 4, Orange-street. There were present, besides Mr. Montague, Charles Ewer, Esq., Lemuel Shattuck, Esq. and John Wingate Thornton, Esq. No formal action was taken at this meeting.

<sup>2</sup> This meeting was at the residence of Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., No. 79 Harrison-avenue. There were present Mr. Charles Ewer, Mr. Samuel G. Drake, J. Wingate Thornton, Esq., Mr. William H. Montague, and Mr. Shattuck. Mr. Ewer was chosen chairman, and Mr. Thornton secretary.

Until March, 1845, the meetings of the Society were held severally at the law-office of Mr. Thornton, No. 20 Court street, at the residence of Mr. S. G. Drake, No. 56 Cornhill, and at the house of Mr. Shattuck, as above. On the 7th of March, 1845, the Society met at the rooms of the American Education Society, No. 15 Cornhill, and continued to hold its regular meetings at the same place for the space of a year. This was a commodious room on the second flat of the four-story building, now in the joint occupancy of the American Education and Massachusetts Bible Societies. All the subsequent meetings of the Society have been held at their own rooms, with the exception of a few commemorative and other occasions, where larger space has been needed. For a full account of the different apartments leased by the Society see note further on, under the subject of a new building.

prehensive constitution<sup>1</sup> elaborated and adopted, and an application made to the general court of Massachusetts for an act of incorporation.

On numerous important subjects falling within the scope of their aims, committees had already been raised, and several judicious and practical schemes had been submitted and approved, for laying broad foundations for the future, and for entering at once upon the Society's appropriate work. This formative period did not pass without grave and important discussions, the repeated survey of their chosen field in all its aspects, profound penetrations into the wealth of its chaotic treasures, and prophetic forecasts and brilliant visions of the rich harvest of historical truth, that they knew would come of patient and persevering toil. They were indeed entering upon an experiment which had no antecedent. Anterior to this no historical Society, directing its energies to the same line of investigation, existed anywhere on the face of the globe. The first thought comprehending our aim and purpose, certainly in its practical bearings, sprung into being among the founders of this Society. Why it should have had its birth here in the heart of New-England, and at this particular juncture, offers a theme of interesting and curious speculation.

It may have been the synthetic method, the inductive principle, slumbering in its application to the study of history since the days of Bacon, awaiting, as the seed cast into the earth often does, the slow, mysterious processes of time to quicken it into active, positive life.

Or it may have been, that the best field for this particular application of historical study was to be found here, on this corner of the western continent, among a people of unusual political and social equality, coming of the Anglo-Saxon stock, with an inheritance of many elements of character of which they always feel a just but not ostentatious pride.

But whatever unseen and quickening influences were brooding over them in the progress of thought or the ripeness of time, our gratitude is due to the five gentlemen who entered into the primary organization, and to them must the honor forever be accorded of giving form to the idea and method of historical study, inaugurated by this So-

<sup>1</sup> The Constitution was adopted December, 1844. The first full board of officers was elected January 7, 1845. After the incorporation of the Society, the Constitution was again formally adopted by vote on the 1st of April, 1845.



ciety, and on which its whole fabric has been firmly and persistingly reared.

On the eighteenth day of March, 1845, since which time has to-day just filled up the circuit of twenty-five years, an act of incorporation was made complete by the signature of the governor of this Commonwealth, and we received on that day our charter under the title of the NEW-ENGLAND HISTORIC, GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. The name<sup>1</sup> itself fully indicates the aim and purpose of the institution. Historical and genealogical are abbreviated into historic, genealogical, and in this more compact form, clearly express the two elements or constituents of our work. We are not a genealogical society merely, neither are we a historical society without limit or qualification. If we were the former our purpose would be consummated in the construction of tables of descent, family trees, and of little more than simple catalogues of names. However engrossing the investigation confined to such a narrow field as this might be to the persons immediately concerned, to all others it would be barren of interest and unedifying to the last degree.

In the completeness of our work the two elements are of necessity combined, the one always supplementing the other; the historical is the more prominent and engrossing, requiring broader and more diversified investigations; while the genealogical, however essential, is limited and narrow, relating to little more than the successive links by which the continuity of family history is maintained. Genealogy may be compared to the golden chain that holds a collection of jewels together, and keeps them in their proper order and in their due relations; while history deals with each and the whole in the largest way, dilating with the greatest freedom, and saying all it may of their origin, their nature, their qualities, their size, their uses, and their value.

Under this two-fold aim a unity of design pervades all our investigations; all of them converging to the same point, terminating, as

<sup>1</sup> The full purpose and design of the Society appears to have been arrived at through the discussion by the founders of the name to be given to it. One proposed "historic or historical, genealogical," another "genealogical," a third "genealogical and heraldic," and a fourth desired that "New-England" should be prefixed. The name finally settled upon appears happily to incorporate, with a slight exception, the views of all of them, and proves anew that "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." See Proceedings, vol. i. p. 1. Register, vol. ix. p. 11.

an ultimate purpose, in the construction and building up of complete, distinct, family histories. But the process by which this constructive work is accomplished opens to us a field of historical study, replete with interest, diversified in character, and inexhaustible in extent. Running far back to the early voyages to these western shores, and to the period when the Indian pursued his game among our mountains and along our lakes and rivers, and passing down through the eight or ten generations that have lived and flourished here since Anglo-Saxon blood became indigenous to New-England soil, and following them in their dispersion over the broad surface of our own land, and into nearly every corner of the civilized world, we shall find no deed or event, which may come to us of tradition or of record, that will not add some tint or coloring, some light or shade, to the grand historical mosaic, which it is the office of this Society to construct. Having the New-England families as the basis of our study, whatever serves to influence or illustrate New-England life or character, in what has been written, in what has been said, or in what has been done, whether by direct influence or remotely by contrast, comes of necessity within the scope of our design. The history of education from the beginning to the present time, of science and the arts, of foreign commerce and internal trade, of invention and industry, of military aims and achievements, of law and the administration of justice, of religion, morals, manners, habits and customs, in their endless combinations and applications, all are embraced under the two-fold significance of our corporate name.

With such a broad field as this, covered over with the ungathered harvest of rich historical material, the early members of our Society entered with youthful zeal and manly energy upon their career of work.

Plans were laid and steps immediately taken, under numerous commissions, to bring within their reach the sources<sup>1</sup> of information which are indispensable and fundamental in all historic, genealogical

<sup>1</sup> On the 30th of January, 1845, "the expediency of publishing Farmer's Genealogical Register with the author's additions and corrections," was referred to the Board of Directors, and the author's copy and manuscripts were in their hands for about six months, and the subject was fully considered by them. It was, however, found that large additions would be necessary, involving systematic labors stretching through many years, and consequently it would not be advisable for the Society to undertake it in its corporate capacity. Soon after the agitation of the subject by the Society, this Herculean labor was undertaken by

investigations. These plans were broad, comprehensive, and characterized by a far-sighted practical wisdom.<sup>1</sup> Many of them were speedily carried forward to completion, while others were so vast in their design, and so complicated in their nature, that they remain unexecuted down to the present moment. But all of these early movements, whether taken separately or together, were at once a pledge of present fidelity, and a prophecy of future growth.

It was esteemed a matter of no small moment by our early associates, to place themselves as a Society before the whole New-England population in their true and proper light, and especially that the value and importance of their chosen line of historical investigation should be clearly and distinctly understood. However marvellous and inexplicable it may be to us, at the organization of this Society, and for sometime afterward, there was a strong, deep-seated prejudice,<sup>2</sup> lurking everywhere in the New-England mind against the cultivation in any degree of ancestral or family history. It was at that period regarded as an infringement upon good taste, if not a crime in morals, to speak of our ancestors with any fervent interest, at least beyond the precincts of the family circle. The cause of this unnatural sentiment may possibly lie in a philosophy too deep for our penetration. But it seems, nevertheless, to have had its germ in the principle of

the Hon. James Savage, and completed at the termination of fifteen years. While the value of this work can hardly be over estimated, especially as directing the investigator to the proper sources of information, it has, however, in it so many errors that it cannot be fully relied upon, and is deficient in a happy and convenient arrangement. A work more exhaustive, better arranged, and correcting the errors in this, is a desideratum in the present stage of genealogical studies.

<sup>1</sup> A great number of subjects were discussed, and committees were appointed to obtain information for the use of the Society. The following are some of them, viz.: measures to preserve the printed notices of marriages and deaths, the inscriptions upon tomb-stones in Boston and vicinity, to obtain abstracts from probate records, the record of marriages "in the Old Colony Records," sets of directories and city registers, annual and triennial catalogues of colleges and seminaries of learning, a complete list of all names changed by act of legislature in New-England, copies of all town records in Massachusetts previous to 1700, and deposit them in the state archives, to set forth forms of family registers, &c. &c.

On the 6th of January, 1846, it was "voted that a special committee be appointed to petition the Legislature that a Record Commission be appointed to procure the printing of such early records as may be deemed expedient." This was the earliest movement in this direction, of which we have any knowledge, and was seven years before the State of Massachusetts began to print the records of Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colonies, edited by the Hon. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., and David Pulsifer, Esq., both members of this Society, the latter editing four volumes and transcribing several of the others. The above indicate the energy, zeal and comprehensive intelligence with which our early members entered upon their work during the first year of the Society's existence.

<sup>2</sup> See New-England Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. ix. p. 10.



universal equality, which everywhere, except in social life, lies at the foundation of our institutions. To avoid the imputation of an offensive personal pride or self-importance, the tendency of public opinion was so strong in the opposite direction, that it was esteemed an honor to be ignorant of our origin, and a virtue to be reticent of our ancestry. Between this excessive and unnatural modesty on the one hand, and a boastful and repulsive pride on the other, there is a wholesome study of our family history, ennobling to the aspirations and stimulating to the virtues, which, from the beginning, it has been the unvarying aim of this Society to cultivate both by precept and example.

At a very early period in the history of our proceedings, bulletins were sent forth by the Directors, announcing with clearness the objects of the association, and soliciting the aid and active co-operation of its members. These were followed by a series of addresses by several of our associates, printed and widely disseminated, which discuss with great learning and elaborate argument the true aim and purpose of our method. These direct efforts on the part of the Society, together with other incidental and perhaps more effective influences still, wrought, in the progress of a few years, an entire change, or rather created a new sentiment throughout the whole of New England, on the value, importance and dignity of our line of historical investigation. The citizen's cheek that once flushed with shame now mantles with pride in the ample knowledge of ancestors, from whom he has received a veritable inheritance, by whom his physical, intellectual and moral character have been largely moulded and shaped, and to whom his distinguishing qualities may be proximately or remotely traced. The creation, therefore, of a public sentiment, favorable to our work, is one of the purposes which has been fully accomplished. The cloud of prejudice and ignorance which overshadowed us in the beginning has gradually faded from the sight, and for several years we have had only an open and clear sky before us. And any elaborate statements or discussions of this topic in our proceedings have been for some time past, and must ever in the future be regarded as the re-arguing a case before a jury, which had already returned a verdict in our favor.

Among the primary movements of our members was the formation of a library of New-England history. This was justly regarded as



the first step to be taken, and as lying at the foundation of all future success. To make any progress in historical study, it was obviously necessary that the proper material, digested and undigested, should be brought within their reach. The Directors, acting for a Society, which, in their own emphatic words, was "endowed with nothing but the importance of its objects and the energy of its members," were fruitful in plans and instant in their execution. Schedules of what was wanted, under five distinct heads, embracing printed volumes, manuscript documents, original records, newspapers and magazines, were sent to all our members, and they were requested to procure the donation to the Society of this sort of material, classified and described by them more definitely than is necessary for my present purpose. These schedules were issued annually for the first three years of the Society's existence. The third, in June, 1847, reached our members, more than three hundred in number, including resident, corresponding and honorary, and scattered, not only over the six New-England states, but also to be found in New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, at the seat of government at Washington, and in the city of London in England. These bulletins went forth like a bugle call, and the response came back, warm, earnest, prompt and generous. It is to be observed that the contributions which came to us, as was intended, were, at this early period, almost exclusively from members of the Society. The collections of our associates yielded large material, gathered under the influence of their prevailing tastes, which they were ready and rejoiced to make the foundation of a library, which had a great historical purpose. The impulse thus given, kept alive by the growing fame of our generous design, and the broadly diffused personal influence of our members, has maintained a constant flow of historical material to the archives of this Society. The current has varied but little, either in strength or fullness, from the beginning down to the present moment. The sources, however, have not been limited to the narrow boundary of membership, but authors, and publishers, and private gentlemen have had a commendable pride in placing here not only the product of their own pens, but whatever may directly or indirectly illustrate the character of any descendant of New-England stock, whether found here upon her soil, or building up his fortunes on any other part of the globe.

Our library has thus been made up, with hardly any exception, by the voluntary contributions of those who have a personal interest in our great work; and it is a noble monument to this historical taste, now numbering, as it does, over eight thousand bound volumes, and more than twenty-six thousand pamphlets, nearly all historical in their character, and indispensably necessary to our purpose in the illustration and development of New-England history.

So much have we done in this direction in the twenty-five years of our corporate existence. To say that it is the largest, the fullest, or even the best library within the limits of our chosen field, is not saying for it all that will be said of it at a future day. It is yet in its infancy, and matches by no means our ideal conception of what it should be. It must be made exhaustive in the department which it aims to represent. But as I propose to speak of it more fully in the sequel, I pass on to another branch of our work.

Immediately on the organization of the Society it became apparent, both from the instalments placed in our archives, and from other indications, that there was a large amount of historical material relating to local and family history, in the form of letters, papers, private and official records, scattered all through New-England, hid away in attics and unused apartments, in folios falling from their binding, worn and defaced, unappreciated, wasting and gradually becoming extinct. To bring this within the archives of the Society was an important step in their rescue from impending destruction, and their permanent preservation. And this we were effectually doing by the means to which I have already referred. But to render this crude material accessible to the historical student, to bring it within practical reach of the numerous investigators in our line of study, it was necessary to subject it to a careful inspection and analysis, to bring together the scattered fragments of history, to classify, arrange and unite them in their proper order; and, beyond all this, to secure their broadest usefulness, it was found also important to incorporate them into printed volumes, thus laying open their treasures, and placing them at the ready command of the historical investigator down to the latest period of time.

To accomplish this by an institution still in its infancy, and with no endowment beyond that of a noble purpose, was a problem difficult to solve. At an early period, almost coincident with the organ-

ization of the Society, the attention of our associates was directed to the establishment of a journal which should appear quarterly, in whose pages should be embalmed these perishing records of New-England history. I need not recount the obstacles that presented themselves, the repeated discussions, the propositions made and withdrawn, the negotiations attempted, the plans entered upon and abandoned, before it was possible to set forward on an enterprise like this, appealing to an undeveloped literary taste, and involving a large pecuniary responsibility. In January, 1847, somewhat more than a year after the primary steps were taken, appeared the first number of the Society's journal, under the title of the *New-England Historical and Genealogical Register*. From that beginning down to the present time a quarterly number has been issued without an omission, making twenty-three complete yearly volumes, and we are still advancing upon the twenty-fourth. The editorial conduct<sup>1</sup> and literary management of this publication has been under the auspices and direction of the Society, while by an order early adopted and firmly adhered to, all pecuniary burdens have been borne outside of our corporate responsibility.<sup>2</sup> The position to be occupied by this

<sup>1</sup> The editors have been as follows:—Vol. I., the Rev. William Cogswell, D.D.; Vol. II., Samuel G. Drake, A.M.; Vol. III., Jan. No., Samuel G. Drake, A.M., April, July and Oct. Nos., William T. Harris, A.M.; Vol. IV., Jan. No., Samuel G. Drake, A.M., April, July and Oct. Nos., Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D.; Vol. V., Samuel G. Drake, A.M.; Vol. VI., Jan. and April Nos., the Rev. Joseph B. Felt, LL.D., July No., the Hon. T. Farrar, LL.D., Oct. No., Mr. William B. Trask; Vols. VII., VIII., IX., X., XI., XII., Samuel G. Drake, A.M.; Vols. XIII., XIV., Mr. William B. Trask, William H. Whitmore, A.M., and John Ward Dean, A.M.; Vol. XV., Samuel G. Drake, A.M.; Vol. XVI., Jan. No., Mr. William B. Trask, April No., the Rev. Elias Nason, A.M., July No., the Hon. Charles Hudson, A.M., Oct. No., John Ward Dean, A.M.; Vol. XVII., John Ward Dean, A.M.; Vol. XVIII., Jan. and April Nos., Mr. William B. Trask, July and Oct. Nos., John Ward Dean, A.M.; Vol. XIX., Mr. William B. Trask; Vols. XX. and XXI., the Rev. Elias Nason, A.M.; Vols. XXII., XXIII., XXIV., Albert Harrison Hoyt, A.M.

<sup>2</sup> The publishers have been as follows:—Samuel G. Drake, Vols. I., II., III., IV., V., VII., VIII., IX., X., XII., XIII., XIV., XV.; Thomas Prince, Vol. VI.; Charles B. Richardson, Vol. XI.; Joel Munsell, Vols. XVI., XVII., XVIII. These gentlemen are all members of the society, and as no adequate emolument can have come to them, the honor must be accorded to them of assuming these responsibilities as an act of generosity in the interest of New-England history. The remaining volumes, viz.: XIX., XX., XXI., XXII., XXIII., XXIV. have been published under the imprint of the Society, but without pecuniary responsibility. A club, composed exclusively of members of the Society, has annually entered into a written guarantee to pay any deficiencies, but in case of any surplus of income from subscriptions, to pass it into the treasury of the Society. It would be highly creditable to each member of the Society to be a subscriber to the Register, and thus encourage this method of preserving the wasting records of New-England history, and diminish the responsibility which now rests upon a few of his associates.



quarterly journal was altogether a new one; like the Society itself, it was entering upon an untried experiment. No publication had occupied the same field, or undertaken the same work. The founders did not propose to spread upon its pages the small personal controversies and historical squibbing, which may give life and freshness to a daily or weekly sheet, but which are utterly worthless in the elucidation of the truth, and must soon fade, like an aroma given to the air, forever from human recollection. It was on the other hand to be a repertory of hitherto unpublished historical material, important in itself, and essential to a good understanding of New-England history in its broadest and most comprehensive sense. If we cast our eye over the pages of these twenty-three volumes, we shall see with what unyielding fidelity the editors have carried out this original design. And when we consider the value and extent of these collections, and the gratuitous labor expended upon them, we cannot repress a feeling both of gratitude and admiration. In these volumes we find the historical outline of two hundred and eighty-one New-England families, beginning with the emigrant ancestor, or with earlier generations still, delineated with greater or less fulness, and in some cases brought down in numerous branches to the present generation. Here, too, are sketches of the lives of deceased members of this Society by our several historiographers<sup>1</sup> and others, memoirs of the early fathers of New-England, the charters of cities and towns, abstracts of early wills, private journals and notes touching important events, notices of historical discourses, of graduates of colleges, and of Indian wars, records of towns, churches and families, monumental inscriptions, private and official letters, colonial documents, memoirs of naval and military expeditions, and a multitude of other papers germane to our great purpose, and entering into the very staple of our family and

<sup>1</sup> The office of historiographer was created at the October meeting in 1855, and at the January meeting in 1856, Joseph Palmer, M.D., of Boston, was chosen to the office, which he held six years. Mr. William Blake Trask, of Dorchester, was chosen in January, 1862, and held the office six years. The Rev. Dorus Clarke, D.D., was chosen in January, 1868, and still holds the office, Charles W. Tuttle, A.M. having been appointed assistant in Jan., 1870. It is the duty of the historiographer to prepare memoirs of deceased members of the Society, embodying the most important facts and characteristics, and they are deposited in the archives of the Society or published in the Register. It is intended at a future day to collect them into a volume, so that the Society shall have a complete biographical history of all its members. About one hundred and fifty of these memoirs have appeared in the Register since 1862.



local history. So rich and varied is this collection, and I may add unique in its character, that no scholar can safely undertake to write a history whose subject lies within the boundaries of New-England, whether it be of a state, or of a town, or of a family, who has not made a thorough and exhaustive study of these volumes, and who does not draw largely from them both for the warp and woof of his work.

The whole fabric of life in New-England for a hundred and fifty years of its history, is here exhibited, in a fragmentary way indeed, but nevertheless more truthfully and completely, because seen from more points of view and through less distorted mediums, than in any other work or series of historical collections. Letters, papers, private and official records are presented as it were fresh from the inditing hand of the fathers, edited and annotated only so far as to give them their true position and relation to the scenes and events of which they are a part. In the study of these early documents, shorn neither of their homely simplicity or sturdy truthfulness, we may with a little enthusiasm, and a moderate gift of fancy, transport ourselves into the very heart of colonial times, clasp the hand of the patriarchs, walk in their quiet streets, sit at their frugal board, ponder their deep metaphysics and their profounder theologies, and marvel at their love of liberty and exclusive zeal, gradually working out in their mysterious combination and conflict, the great problem of human freedom and complete, religious toleration.

By the publication of the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register, our Society has thus preserved these pictures of the past, neither discolored by the stupidity, nor distorted by the ingenuity of any modern art. They are effectually preserved for all coming time. Deposited in the largest private and public libraries of the land, some of them may be fretted by the moth at one point, and others consumed by fire at another, yet in the calculation of chances, it is obvious that they will continue to exist, and offer their treasures at all successive periods of time to the student of New-England history.

Early in 1864 a Standing Committee was appointed by the Society to collect and preserve information in regard to heraldry in New-England. The appointment of this committee elicited a large amount of information on this subject, interesting in itself, and directly tending to develope and elucidate our family history. Before

the termination of the year, it became apparent to the committee, that the best results would follow the printing of their material as fast as collected, and they undertook the publication of a serial, under the title of the *Heraldic Journal*, which they subsequently completed in four octavo volumes. In them the whole subject of coat-armor in New-England, especially in its relation to family history, is fully and clearly developed. The nature of the evidence which determines the right to use arms is luminously set forth, and the volumes are richly illustrated with the engraved arms of over two hundred New-England families, while the whole work is replete with historical and genealogical information. These volumes stand alone, and without a rival in the field to which they relate, and must be a standard of reference in all future time.<sup>1</sup>

At different periods the Society has printed a large number of papers and addresses, making, in connection with the two works to which I have already referred, an aggregate of publications since our organization of not less than thirty octavo volumes.

Such, Gentlemen, is the direct result of our labors in this single department in these twenty-five years of our corporate existence.

But the office of an historical society is not so much the direct production of historical works in its organized capacity, as the furnishing of material and the stimulation of their production by its members, and by others who may come within the limits of its influence.

In our monthly meetings, numberless questions of local and family history have been discussed, learned and elaborate papers have been presented and read, and in our quarterly publications, the direction which this Society desires to give to historical study in New-England has been unfolded in a clear, distinct and practical manner. From these sources an influence has gone forth far and wide, creating a taste and quickening a practical interest in our purposes and in our work.

<sup>1</sup> This committee consisted of William H. Whitmore, A.M., of Boston; Abner C. Goodell, Jr., A.M., of Salem; The Rev. William S. Bartlet, A.M., of Chelsea; Augustus T. Perkins, A.M., of Boston, and William S. Appleton, A.M., of Boston. Mr. Bartlet served on the committee only for the year 1864. The other gentlemen have continued to serve till the present time. Edward S. Rand, Jr., A.M., was added to the committee for 1870. The i. ii. and iv. vols. of the *Heraldic Journal* were edited by William H. Whitmore, and the iii. vol. by William S. Appleton. For the annual reports of the committee, see Register, vol. xviii. p. 215; xix. 184; xx. 184; xxi. 200; xxii. 211; xxiii. 223.

Among these secondary fruits of the Society's efforts, is the production of genealogical or family histories.

During the two hundred and twenty-five years from the landing of the pilgrims in the harbor of Plymouth to the year of our incorporation, scarcely anything had been done in this department. A few rudimentary attempts had been made, but they were hardly worthy the appellation of family histories. Most of them were very brief, covering from one to thirty pages, and were little more than a collocation of names, thrown confusedly together without order or system of arrangement. In all twenty-five of these rude attempts have come to our knowledge, published during the two hundred and twenty-five years anterior to the date of our incorporation, but the whole together do not equal in extent a single volume of our larger and more recent works in this department.

But the stimulating influence of the Society during these twenty-five years, and the facilities for investigation offered by its library, have been followed by marvellous and almost incredible results. During this brief period there have been published in this country three hundred and sixty-five distinct family histories, most of them elaborated with great care, beginning far back in the early colonial times, reaching down through eight or ten generations, and each of them containing the names and more or less personal history of from three thousand to eight thousand persons, all descended from the same emigrant ancestor. To spread such an array of names over a volume of several hundred pages, all woven together, each occupying its proper place with its appropriate history, presented at first what seemed to be natural and insuperable difficulties. In the progress of these years these difficulties have been gradually overcome, and we have approximated step by step to a mode and system of arrangement, at once scientifically complete, and obvious to the comprehension of a child.

So many family histories have now been written, and the experiment has so often been tested, that we may regard it as a postulate, that any one of our families may trace its line of descent back to the emigrant ancestor, and gather up a trustworthy and valuable personal history of all who stand at the head of the several generations. There is probably no other people on the face of the globe, whose family history for two hundred and fifty years is so fully woven into the public and private local records, and in such a manner, that they

may be easily brought forth, and, by a synthetic process, wrought into complete, harmonious and truthful narratives. We are told that the old Romans were accustomed to place the images of their ancestors in the halls of their private dwellings, that they might catch, even from the cold outline of brass and marble, the spirit that animated them in their noble deeds. But we have a far richer inheritance than this. Even if the physical outline be lost, the life and character may be imaged to the mind with marvellous accuracy and clearness. They live in the traditions of a virtuous people, in the notes of a periodical press reaching back through a hundred and sixty years, in the records and proceedings of our towns and of our schools, in the titles of landed property, in the wills and settlements of estates, in the corporations of church and of state, and in the journals and prolific correspondence of a social and intelligent ancestry.

To gather up the memorials of those who have gone before us, to reconstruct their living portraits from historical fragments so widely scattered, is a work of time, of patience and of unremitting toil; but once completed, the ancestral line, reaching far down the vista of the past, will stand out clearly before us, the images of our fathers will tenderly live in our minds, and we shall reverently cherish their memories, as will likewise the generations to come.

*Et nati natorum, et qui nascentur ab illis.*

Whoever enters into these investigations, or peruses these family histories, beginning with himself, if he will, and tracing the golden current through all its myriad windings, will rise from the engrossing study, his sympathies touched at a thousand new points, his whole nature lifted up to a higher and broader purpose, and himself a better, truer, nobler unit of the race to which he belongs.

“As the small pebble stirs the peaceful lake;  
The centre mov'd, a circle strait succeeds;  
Another still, and still another spreads;  
Child, parent, brother, first it will embrace,  
His neighbor next, and next all human race.”<sup>1</sup>

It has been the aim of this Society from the beginning to encourage and promote the production of local histories, since they lie entirely within the line and scope of our general purpose. The tone and

<sup>1</sup> These lines of Pope have been slightly accommodated to their present use.



character of New-England society has never been unfavorable to this department. A taste in this kind of literature prevails in our abounding anniversary addresses, memorial discourses, historical sermons and fourth of July orations; but of the latter it must be said, that, for the most part, they have been conceived in a strain of patriotic emotion and tumid rhetoric, quite too lofty for the companionship of simple and modest statements of historical truth.

Earlier than the date of our incorporation the attention began to be directed to the preparation of town histories, and several able and scholarly works in this department had already been published. But a large majority of those that exist at the present time have come from the press during the last twenty-five years. The whole number of towns in New-England, of which histories have been written, is one hundred and thirty-seven.<sup>1</sup> Besides these there are a few meagre sketches, comprised in thin pamphlets, suitable for gazetteers, but in no sense rising to the dignity of town histories. Forty-one only of the whole number had been published anterior to 1845, while ninety-six have appeared since the beginning of that year. Eight elaborate works in addition to these, relating to towns of which histories already existed, have also been published, making in all, that have come to our knowledge, a hundred and four in the last twenty-five years.

<sup>1</sup> The towns in Massachusetts, of which histories have been published, will be found in the Bibliography of Massachusetts, by Jeremiah Colburn, A.M. See Register, Vols. xxi., xxii., xxiii., xxiv.

The towns in the other New-England states of which histories have been published, and which have come to our notice, are as follows:—

MAINE.—Augusta, Camden, Gardiner and Pittston, Gorham, Kennebunkport, Norridgewock, Norway, Portland, Rockland and S. Thomaston, Saco and Biddeford, Scarborough, Union, Warren, Winthrop.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.—Acworth, Antrim, Bedford, Boscawen, Candia, Chester, Concord, Dublin, Dunbarton, Dunstable, Gilmanton, Hillsborough, Keene, Londonderry, Manchester, Mason, New-Boston, New-Ipswich, Portsmouth, Temple, Troy, Warren. Of the following brief histories have been published of about 50 pages, or less: Alstead, Amherst, Andover, Charlestown, Croydon, Epsom, Warner.

CONNECTICUT.—Colechester, East-Haven, Franklin, Glastenbury, Greenwich, Hartford, Harwinton, Litchfield, Meriden, Middletown, New-Haven, New-London, Norfolk, Norwalk, Norwich, Simsbury and Granby and Canton, Tolland, Waterbury, Windsor, Woodbury, and a few historical discourses relating to other towns.

VERMONT.—Bennington, Cornwall, Danby, Middlebury, Middletown, Montpelier, Pawlet, Salisbury, Shoreham, Wells. There are also brief sketches of Coventry, Lyndon and Salem.

RHODE-ISLAND.—Providence, Burrillville.

But the influence of our Society may not only be seen in the enlarged production of town histories, but in the improved quality and character of the works themselves. The sources of information, which we have laid open, have led to greater thoroughness of research, and the criticisms offered have induced a wiser selection of material and a more convenient and scientific arrangement. A large part of these works are now supplemented by full genealogical tables of the early settlers, and personal incidents of the more prominent actors, and thus furnish already one of the richest sources of information to those who are investigating the history of New-England families.

But it has been the purpose of this Society to encourage the publication of local history of the most general and various character. The number of works published, within the last twenty-five years, relating to centennial and other celebrations, the history of churches and of ecclesiastical bodies, of military service, expeditions and campaigns, and to other subjects in their local character, is far greater than those relating to corporate towns. Of such as properly belong to this class there are on our shelves, we presume, from five hundred to a thousand volumes; and while they are fragmentary, and often incomplete in themselves, they are in the aggregate invaluable contributions to the great subject to which they belong.

In 1857 the publication of a serial was commenced in Boston under the title of the *Historical Magazine*, originating among members of this Society, and intended to encourage and facilitate historical studies, and to occupy a co-ordinate field, but to which the pages of our *New-England Historical and Genealogical Register* could not be spared. The first volume, inferior to none in the series, was edited by a member of this Society.<sup>1</sup> The magazine was afterward removed to the city of New-York, where it has been ably conducted, receiving large and frequent contributions from members of this Society.

In 1858 an association was formed in Boston under the title of "the Prince Society," in honor of the Rev. Thomas Prince, who was "primus inter pares" as an antiquary in New-England a hundred and fifty years ago. The object of this Society was the publication of rare works, in print or manuscript, relating to America. Its officers

<sup>1</sup> John Ward Dean, A.M.

and its council<sup>1</sup> have from the first all been members of this Society. It has issued from the press six quarto volumes, in part reprints and in part from original manuscripts, in the accessories of paper and typography of exceeding beauty, most of them annotated with great fulness and fidelity, and, as a contribution to New-England history, far the richest series of its kind that has appeared in the last fifteen years.

The Collections of the Essex Institute, the publication of which was undertaken fourteen years after our organization, now in the tenth volume, and lying in the direct line of our investigations, contain large and valuable contributions from members of this Society.<sup>2</sup> I make this allusion with greater freedom, since, in its historical department, occupying the same field with ourselves, except in its greater limitation, there has always been between the members of this Institute and our associates the most helpful and cordial sympathy, together with a generous and undistinguishing pride in the achievements of the one or the other in our common aims.

There are many other works to which we might appropriately allude, here in New-England, among those who are descended of New-England stock scattered through all the States of the Union, and on the other side of the Atlantic, which have been inspired, moulded and perfected, under the stimulating and energizing influence of this Society. But I have doubtless said enough to indicate how broad and permeating is the influence of an institution which has a great historical purpose, important and of personal interest to all classes, alike to the citizen of the metropolis, and to the intelligent cottager among the hills and valleys of the interior.

<sup>1</sup> The officers of the Prince Society at the present time, who together form the Council in which is vested the management of its affairs, are as follows, viz.: *President*, Samuel Gardner Drake, A.M.; *Vice Presidents*, John Ward Dean, A.M., J. Wingate Thornton, A.M., and the Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, A.M.; *Corresponding Secretary*, William H. Whitmore, A.M.; *Recording Secretary*, William S. Appleton, A.M.; *Treasurer*, Jeremiah Colburn, A.M. The volumes published are "Wood's New-England Prospect," *Committee of publication*, Jeremiah Colburn; "Hutchinson Papers," 2 vols. *com. pub.* William H. Whitmore and William S. Appleton; "John Dunton's Letters from New-England," *com. pub.* William H. Whitmore; "Andros Tracts," 2 vols. *com. pub.* William H. Whitmore.

<sup>2</sup> Of the contributors we note the following among our members: Messrs. C. M. Endicott, S. P. Fowler, M. A. Stickney, A. C. Goodell, Jr., Joseph B. Felt, Jacob W. Reed, Henry Wheatland, T. B. Wyman, Jr., E. S. Waters, Charles W. Upham, Joseph Moulton, Alfred Poor.

During the last year an association has been formed in the city of New York, under the title of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. The President and First Vice President have long been honored members of this Society. We hail with great satisfaction the birth of this institution, whose aims and purposes are similar to our own. The cordial sympathy and ready co-operation of our associates will, I am sure, be extended at all times to its members, who are entering a new field, in its geographical relations contiguous to our own, whose ripened harvest stands ready to be gathered, but into which the reaper's sickle has not been thrust.<sup>1</sup>

Within the last few years foundations have been laid for several important and permanent funds in aid of special departments of our work. Dr. Henry Bond, of Philadelphia, for many years one of our associates, who died in that city on the 4th of May, 1859, left a testamentary bequest to the Society of certain valuable manuscripts, and about a thousand copies of his great work on the history and genealogies of Watertown. The proceeds from the sale of this work are placed in a board of trust, and the income alone is to be expended in the purchase of books. While this foundation, denominated the Bond Fund, is inconsiderable at present, when it shall be increased, as we trust it may be, not only by its own necessary accumulation but by the additional gifts of other members of the Society, it will be an instrument of unspeakable value and convenience in our future growth.

John Barstow, Esq., of Providence, Rhode-Island, some years a Vice-President of the Society, established a foundation, known as the Barstow Fund, by the gift of a thousand dollars, the principal to be

<sup>1</sup> The initiatory steps for the formation of this Society were taken on the 27th of February, 1869, and its complete organization was effected on the 24th of April, of that year. The present members, we observe, are largely of New-England stock. The investigation of the early New-York families, of both English and Dutch origin, will be a subject of great historical interest. Their manners, habits, and customs, the constitution of society, civil, social and religious, were all so different from those of New-England, and have been so largely modified by time, that their study will present a multitude of entertaining and suggestive contrasts.

Irving painted the real or imaginary foibles of the early settlers with such graphic power by his marvellous wit and fancy, and his work is so universally read, that the current idea of their character is, we think, somewhat falsely colored. His pictures are so skilfully drawn, that it is difficult for most minds not to invest the fiction with the reality of history. The antidote to any false impression, arising from this source, will be found in a thorough and full development of their family and local history.



kept invested, and the income to be exclusively devoted to the binding and preservation of books and manuscripts.<sup>1</sup> The moneys, thus derived, have been annually expended agreeably to the restriction of the donor, and have been of great and essential service in the preservation of our library.

The Hon. Henry W. Cushman,<sup>2</sup> of Bernardston, a late Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, who died Nov. 21, 1863, devised to the Society his library and manuscripts, consisting of about 600 volumes, together with about 200 copies of the "Cushman Genealogy," the latter to be sold and the proceeds permanently invested, and entitled the Cushman Genealogical Fund, the income to be expended in binding and keeping in repair the library by him devised, and in the purchase of genealogical works.

On the first day of January, 1864, William B. Towne, Esq., of Brookline, made a donation of a thousand dollars,<sup>3</sup> to be placed in the hands of trustees, the principal and interest to be kept separate and apart from other receipts of the Society, the income to be appropriated to the publication of memoirs of deceased members. By order of the Society this foundation is denominated the Towne Memorial Fund: it now amounts, with its accumulations, to over fifteen hundred dollars, and steps have already been taken for the publication of a volume agreeably to the design of the founder.

The moneys derived from the creation of Life-memberships are funded, and the income only can be used for meeting the current expenditures of the Society. This is denominated the Life-Fund, and now amounts to somewhat more than five thousand dollars, and is yearly accumulating.

From these statements it will be seen that, in the brief years of our history, five distinct foundations have been established, which have already proved of great service to the Society, and promise still richer fruits in the future.

<sup>1</sup> The amount was given in three instalments, \$200 Aug. 2, 1860; \$300 April 4, 1862; \$500 March 2, 1863. For restriction of this fund see letter of Mr. Barstow in the proceedings of the Society for March 4, 1863.

<sup>2</sup> For memoir and engraved portrait of Gov. Cushman, see Register, vol. xviii. p. 321; of Dr. Bond, vol. xiv.; of Mr. Barstow, vol. xviii. p. 370.

<sup>3</sup> Since the delivery of this discourse Mr. Towne, formerly of Brookline, now of Milford, N.H., has added another thousand dollars to this fund, and he has intimated that he intends to add three thousand dollars more, making eventually his whole gifts to this foundation, \$5,000.

The memory of the gentlemen, who have established these foundations, will be ever gratefully cherished by the members of the Society, not only for their comprehensive appreciation of its aims and purposes, but for their generous gifts, which will be sources of perpetual and unceasing aid and encouragement, renewing themselves and giving fresh tokens of their value year by year, far down in the generations to come.

I have thus in the progress of this discourse indicated the general outline of our history, and given an imperfect sketch of the breadth and extent of our achievements in the line of historical study in these twenty-five years. It will be seen that from the beginning we have had a positive purpose, clearly and distinctly defined, and that this purpose has been quietly pursued with a patient zeal and an inflexible will.

Making the New-England families the centre of our investigations, and comprehending all history here and elsewhere that may illustrate our theme, our studies have awakened the warmest sympathies, the purest affections, and the noblest sentiments that belong to the human soul. From a small beginning our growth has been gradual and constant. Our influence has been yearly extending, going forth wave after wave, until the historical student has come fully to appreciate the dignity of our purpose, the felicity of our method, and the magnitude of our work.

We enter to-day, Mr. President and gentlemen, upon our second quarter of a century, with a valuable library of New-England history, with several pecuniary foundations fairly initiated, with a wide experience on the part of many of our members in the processes of historical investigation, and a thorough knowledge of the richness and the exhaustless resources of our chosen field of study.

The future work of the Society will consist in building up a superstructure that shall match, in all its essential qualities and proportions, the broad and solid foundation which has been most auspiciously laid.

The method of the founders of this institution was original in its conception, seasonable in its announcement, practicable in its working, and has laid open to our hand sources of inexhaustible historical wealth. We have only to go forward with the firm, distinct and unyielding purpose to complete what has been so wisely begun.

The work to which the Society will naturally address itself with spe-

cial earnestness, is the production of ancestral or family histories. The three hundred and sixty-five, known to have been published since the organization of this Society, make indeed a noble beginning. They offer great facilities to the future explorer in their copious information, and the best of them are models of structure and arrangement. But what has already been accomplished is but the opening, the mere entrance upon the vast work that stands ready to our hand. The number of early New-England settlers cannot now be accurately determined. There is very decisive evidence that previous to 1643, over twenty-one thousand persons had come to New-England, and although the tide of immigration was much diminished in after years, and some returned, we hazard nothing in the supposition, that there were not less than fifteen thousand distinct families established here anterior to the revolution in 1776.<sup>1</sup> While each of these families will doubtless in time find its historian, the completion of the whole will of necessity stretch through many years. There is probably a much larger number of these ancestral histories now in the process of compilation than have already been completed, and each new contribution will give greater facility for the preparation of the next. Under the encouragement and stimulating influence which the Society

<sup>1</sup> The following from Capt. Edward Johnson's history of New-England, will throw light on the subject:—"But before the Author proceed any further in this Discourse, take here a short survey of all the Voyages by Sea, in the transportation of these Armies of the great *Jehova*, for fifteen years space to the year 1643. about which time *England* began to endeavour after Reformation, and the Souldiers of Christ were set at liberty to bide his battells at home, for whose assistance some of the chiefe worthies of Christ returned back: the number of Ships that transported passengers in this space of time, as is supposed is 298. Men, Women and Children passing over this wide Ocean, as near as at present can be gathered, is also supposed to be 21200. or thereabout." Chap. 14, p. 31.

As Johnson includes only fifteen years in this statement, he does not appear to take into the account those who came to Plymouth, at least previous to 1628. If we reckon five persons in a family, then we must suppose that there had come over somewhat more than 4000 families before 1643. In the Genealogical Dictionary by Mr. Savage, there are a little more than four thousand *different names*, and as a large proportion of these names represent several distinct families, we may safely conclude that there were not less than *ten thousand* distinct families in New-England in 1692; none, coming later than that, are included in the Genealogical Dictionary. If five thousand families came, during the next 84 years, then there must have been fifteen thousand distinct families in New-England in 1776. We do not offer this as any more than a *guess* founded on probable evidence. We have made this estimate in order to give some idea of the vast work that remains to be done in developing the family history of New-England. But even if there were only as many families as are represented by the different names in the Genealogical Dictionary, there would then be twelve times as many family histories to be written as have already been published.

will at all times impart, and the wholesome and friendly criticisms it will offer, larger instalments may be yearly looked for from the press, conformed to the simplest and best modes of arrangement, thorough and exact in incident, elaborated with greater care and with more of the graces of culture and taste.

As in the past, so in the future, the Society will offer its counsel and aid, and freely lay open its gathered treasures for a fuller and more complete development of the local history of New-England. While there are not far from thirteen hundred and forty incorporated towns within our chosen field, the history of not more than a hundred and forty of them has yet been published. Among the twelve hundred that remain to be written, there are rich materials, pregnant with incident, and glowing with interest, slumbering in records and traditions, unsurpassed, at least in value, by anything that has already come from the press. The story of border life, the struggles of our ancestors with climate, poverty, and hostile savages, the moral forces that have been at work, evolving and expanding into growth, and producing their best and ripest fruits in our own generation, will never be understood in their fulness and comprehension, until the history of these incorporated towns, with their personal narratives and family records, have been printed and brought within our reach. The enthusiasm which has been widely kindled through the example and influence of this Society has already called a multitude of explorers into the field, and the work will of its own impulse go forward, scarcely needing anything more from us, than the information which our archives can furnish, and that cordial sympathy and counsel, which no member of this fraternity will ever desire to withhold.

The publication of ancient documents and records, and original historical matter, such as have already filled the pages of the Register, will continue to occupy an important place in the positive and direct labors of this institution. So long as rich material stands awaiting the press, it will be our paramount duty to put it into permanent and imperishable form. The new interest awakened, and which now pervades all ranks of society, has revealed an opulence of material which, twenty years ago, none but a second-sighted antiquary, who burrows far down beneath the crust of published history, would have believed to exist. The grandsire and the grandam, whose youth reaches well into the former century, are no longer re-



luctant to bring forth their cherished packages, yellow with age, thumb'd and worn by many generations in the family line, and let their sacred contents enter into the fixed staple of our history, where they will forever be safe from the accidents and vicissitudes of time. The material is offered more abundantly to-day than at any other period; its quality is, if possible, superior in richness; and it will fill a place in the circle of New-England annals, which can be supplied from no other source. Under the sifting process of a careful and judicious editorial scrutiny, the historical rarities, that are constantly coming to our hands, should be dealt with as the jewels that men gather from their rocky beds, and preserve uncut and in the most delicate setting, that they may better carry with them the evidence of their genuineness, and the incidental and external testimony of their richness and value.

This department, the publication of original historical documents, which has done so much for our good fame in the past, and which is so central to our great purpose, cannot be spared in our future work. It will go forward shedding a still brighter lustre upon our future, if so be it shall have the genuine sympathy of our associates; the sort of sympathy, we must remember, which does not fade into a lifeless sentiment, but which crystallizes into a practical, material form, in which may be realized more than the potency of the old alchemists, and the honest labor of the printer may be turned into "green-backs," if not into gold.

But the object, which stands foremost and asks the immediate and personal co-operation of each member of the Society, is the perfecting of what we have begun as a library of New-England history.

The eight thousand volumes, which we already possess, most of them illustrative directly or indirectly of our great theme, are of unspeakable value: no language can adequately convey any just conception of the importance of this collection to the investigators of New-England history. But it is, however, not complete in any of its departments. There are some deficiencies even in the list of ancestral and town histories. In local history generally, taken in its widest sense, there are myriads of volumes still to be added. In biographies the number of our titles is not probably one hundredth part of what it should be to render this department absolutely complete. And in some other branches the defects are greater still.

This library was undertaken, and has been brought to what it now is, without a single dollar to facilitate the difficult task. There are those who speak with disrespect of money, and bestow upon it opprobrious epithets, but, nevertheless, we have always found it a good angel whenever we have desired to obtain an important or rare book. The volumes in our library may be regarded as tokens of affection to our great historical purpose. They have come floating in from our members near and distant, from authors, editors and publishers, and others in every part of our country, and even from the other side of the Atlantic. And this method of enlargement may be still more effective than it has ever been in the past. Each member of the Society may properly regard this library as his own, and he may justly feel that his honor, his pride and his affection are involved in rendering it absolutely complete in all its departments. And what is true of our associates, is true, in a scarcely less positive sense, of all who belong to the same kindred and blood. A great, comprehensive and complete library of reference in New-England history, touches the real interests of every New-England man, and of every descendant of New-England stock. And whoever gives a volume to this library does not alienate it from himself, but he invests it where he has an imperishable interest inherited from his ancestors, and which he thus transmits to other generations.

There are thousands of printed volumes and of manuscripts, scattered among our population, in biographies, sketches and reports of institutions, and in other forms, which have fully accomplished their present purpose, and can no longer be useful to their possessors. But when they are transferred to our great library to fill a vacancy in any department, they are at once elevated into a new dignity and importance, and will stand forever in their places to speak for the interests of New-England history. What has been done in the past furnishes the best foundation for a clear, prophetic vision of the future. And no year, we may confidently trust, will be permitted to pass, by any of our associates or by any lover of New-England institutions, without adding something to the growth and completeness of our library, which in an important sense belongs to every New-England man, and in which both his pride and his generosity are involved.

But as we run our eye along down through the several decades of

our history to the landing of the colony at Plymouth, we observe a large number of historical volumes, of great interest in themselves, long since out of print, found in few of our private libraries, exceedingly rare and difficult to obtain. We are taught by the experience of these twenty-five years, that this class of books will not come wafted in to us on the tide of generous gifts. None of them can be found without diligent search, and most of them must be drawn from the collections of those who thrive on the sale of rare books.

In our large membership there are two classes : the one give their leisure hours to the positive work of the Society, to the growth and improvement of the library, to the preparation of historical papers for the press, and a multitude of other duties on which the success and even the existence of the Society depend ; the other class appreciate fully the value and importance of our great purpose, and their membership with us is a living testimony of their sympathy and interest in our work ; but their time and their thoughts are properly absorbed in the great commercial, manufacturing, agricultural and other interests, to which they have consecrated their lives ; and the wealth that comes to them they are generously distributing, and their munificence already adorns our numberless public institutions. From this class of our associates we cannot doubt that the Society will receive hereafter testamentary bequests,<sup>1</sup> which shall be memorials to their histori-

<sup>1</sup> Testamentary bequests and donations to the Society might be wisely made and the income applied to the following purposes :—

1. For the purchase, binding and preservation of books and historical matter relating to the general, local or family history of New-England or any part of it.
2. For the purchase, binding and preservation of books and historical matter relating to the general, local or family history of Maine.
3. For the purchase, binding and preservation of books and historical matter relating to the general, local or family history of New-Hampshire.
4. For the purchase, binding and preservation of books and historical matter relating to the general, local or family history of Vermont.
5. For the purchase, binding and preservation of books and historical matter relating to the general, local or family history of Massachusetts.
6. For the purchase, binding and preservation of books and historical matter relating to the general, local or family history of Rhode Island.
7. For the purchase, binding and preservation of books and historical matter relating to the general, local or family history of Connecticut.

As history is constantly making, yearly additions to the library will always be necessary, both of that which relates to the present as well as to the past.

Persons making testamentary bequests should use this form :—*I give and bequeath to the New-England Historic, Genealogical Society, incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts, in the year eighteen hundred and forty-five, the sum of* \_\_\_\_\_ *to be applied to the uses and purposes of the Society.*

If the legacy is to be for any particular object or department of the Society's work, let it be distinctly stated after the above Italicised sentence.



cal interest, and permanent aids in carrying on our great work; but, in the meantime, yearly appropriations by these gentlemen, placed in the hands of the Library Committee, would enable us to fill up the vacancies to which I have referred. Nothing but money can supply these grave deficiencies, can close up these gaps, and render the library absolutely complete in all its departments. And this end must in some way be achieved. It does not comport with the dignity of such a membership<sup>1</sup> as ours, or the wholesome pride of New-England character, that its great historical library should not be as complete as money, and zeal, and patient labor can make it. There should not be a line that has ever been printed,<sup>2</sup> which illustrates New-England history, whether it be on a broadside, in the memoir of a humble mechanic, in an obscure tract or a more ambitious volume, or a topographical drawing, or a map of a state, or of a county, or of a town, of early or later date, which is not in its proper place on our shelves, and on which the hand of the historical student may not be easily laid. And such a working library as this lies at the foundation of our great historical purpose, and of the

<sup>1</sup> The number of Resident and Life-Members at the present time is somewhat more than four hundred and fifty. To secure the great purpose of the Society, the development of our family and local history, it is important that our membership should extend into every part of New-England. Two thousand members, composed of gentlemen of high standing and character, scattered widely over our whole field, through all our cities and remotest towns, would give to us very important advantages in the prosecution of our work; it would give us correspondents in every locality, and bring us near to the multiplied branches of our New-England families. This number is not large when we consider the extent of our population. (In 1860, the population of New-England was 3,135,283.) There is a very large population of New-England descent living outside of the six Eastern States, who have the same interest in our studies, and who should be active members of the Society. The boundary of our work is not geographical, but is limited to New-England families, comprising all the generations, both those who are now here and those who have gone into other states or countries.

<sup>2</sup> It is pertinent for all, who have a New-England ancestry, to remember that no volume or tract can be so insignificant as not to be of really great importance to the completeness of such a library as we aim to have. The memoir of an obscure person sometimes throws light, which could be obtained from no other source, upon subjects of very great historical interest. There should therefore never be any hesitation in sending a volume, which is not already in our library, because we fancy it to be of small value. In our ignorance it may be of very great value, not perhaps to-day, or in this decade or the next, but possibly half a century hence; let it therefore be sent and abide its time.

Space will be given in the library for the preservation of paintings, engravings and photographs having New-England subjects, ancient and modern; among which we may specify portraits, views of churches, private dwellings, public buildings, water craft of all kinds, and whatever may illustrate our customs, habits, or progress in the useful arts, or may have any important historical significance.



achievements that are finally to crown our labors. It lives to-day rapt up among the possibilities that are slumbering in the wills of our associates. Let us adopt as our motto, to be engraved, as it were, upon our constant and unchanging purpose, the old Latin apothegm,

*Nil actum reputans, si quid superesset agendum,*

and let it be significant of our determination, that in the work of perfecting our library, we will not, as members of this Society, consider that we have achieved anything while anything remains to be done, that we will lay aside all pride, and all boasting of what our library is, until we have made it as full, as complete in all its departments as human energy and human means can make it.<sup>1</sup>

From the view we have thus taken of our past history and our future work, it is obvious, that the Society should have a building,<sup>2</sup> not only under its own control, but which shall be its own property, where the library may be permanently and conveniently arranged, and where every facility may be given for the historical investigations, which it is our object to stimulate and aid. As this want is a foregone conclusion, no argument or elaborate statement is here demand-

<sup>1</sup> In addition to the collection of a library, another aim of the Society, as set forth by our charter, is "the establishment and maintenance of a cabinet." Not much attention has been paid to this very important department. We have a small collection, enough to form the nucleus of a cabinet of New-England antiquities. As we shall hereafter have abundant room for their proper arrangement, it is important that the members of the Society, and others, should send in such antiques as may aid in forming a cabinet of historical interest. The utensils employed by the aborigines in hunting, fishing, war, and in domestic life, are indispensable in the illustration of their history. And the same is true to some extent of the utensils employed by the early colonists of New-England. Our mode of life has been entirely changed. A collection of articles then in common use, and particularly characteristic of that period, would render our ideas of their life far more complete than they otherwise could be.

<sup>2</sup> The Society has occupied at different times four apartments, as will appear by the following statement.

The books that were collected and formed the nucleus of the library, remained in the possession of the several Directors until the 15th of January, 1846, when, according to a note made at the time by Mr. S. G. Drake, they were deposited in the Society's room, which in the words of the record had been "leased of the city in the building recently erected adjacent to the east wing of the City Hall." The entrance to the building was on Court Square. The room was on the third flat, having an area of about 17 by 22 feet, with three windows opening upon Williams Court. The light was good and the space was adequate to the wants of the Society at that period. It was suitably furnished with shelves and chairs, and the "round table," which still "adorns" our library, it having been purchased at auction for the account of the Society, by Mr. Drake, on the 23d of January, 1846. This table is the workmanship of the late ingenious poet and divine, the Rev. John Pierpont, A.M., and has thus lent its dignified presence and friendly service from the very foundation of the library. On the 4th of February the first meeting in this new room took place, and the monthly

ed. The whole subject is in the hands of an able and efficient committee, and this most desirable object will doubtless soon be attained.

I am happy to state that within the past week, and since my last sentence was written, a building has been purchased by our committee, in a quiet and central location, and in all respects eminently suited to our purpose. Under the generous lead of our President, whose heart and hand are in every good work, followed by others not less generous in munificent gifts, a subscription has been opened to raise a sum, that will meet the whole expenditure in the purchase of the building, and in the changes that may be necessary to adapt it to our special use. And, if we shall all of us enroll our names with such sums as shall correspond to our means and to the importance of the object, the property will, in a few days, be transferred to this Society.<sup>1</sup>

We stand to-day, gentlemen and associates, on the utmost boundary of our first quarter of a century, and are about to enter upon the confines of the next. We may well be lifted up with a laudable pride in the achievements of the past, and inspired with a generous ambition to go forward in the noble, and I had almost said, sublime enterprise that opens to us in the future. The work itself appeals to some of the best and finest sentiment that belong to our nature. As descendants of New-England stock, we are knit together into one

meetings continued to be held there. This apartment was in the occupancy of the Society about a year and eight months, at a rental of \$125 per annum.

On the 6th of October, 1847, the first meeting of the Society was held in its second room, on the same court and nearly opposite to the former one, situated on the first flat in "Massachusetts Block," the present site of the Sherman House. The entrance to this building was likewise on Court Square. The Society remained here somewhat more than three years, at a rental of \$150 per annum.

On the 1st of January, 1851, the Society held its annual and first meeting in its third room, then recently leased, on the third flat of what is now No. 5 Tremont St., in the present occupancy, as a law-office, of William A. Richardson and George White, Esquires. The area of this apartment is 18 by 24 feet; it was occupied seven years and nine months, at a rental of \$150, \$175 and \$187.50 per annum.

The Society took possession of its fourth and present apartment, No. 13 Bromfield St. (by change of numbering now No. 17), in October, 1858, and held its first public meeting in it on the 20th of that month. It comprises the whole of the third flat, the area being 53 by 18 feet. This room has for some time been inadequate to the wants of the Society, and about seventy cases of books and pamphlets have been deposited elsewhere. The rental was at first \$250, then \$300, \$350, \$400, and for the last two years has been \$500 per annum.

<sup>1</sup> For a full account of the estate in Somerset Street purchased of the executor of the late Dr. Solomon D. Townsend, see APPENDIX.

great family, by the associations of the past, by the habits and customs of the present, and by the mingling of kindred blood at a thousand points. Our ancestors, who settled on their arrival in the different colonies, belonged to the same class in England, were inspired in general by the same motives and sentiments, and many of them were friends and neighbors in their native land. From these early settlements they sent forth emigrants in all directions. From Massachusetts Bay they spread into Rhode Island, largely into Connecticut, and from all these the current set to the east, and the north, sweeping over the hills of New-Hampshire and Vermont, and then, like a mighty wave upon the shore, was thrown back upon itself, and, in the recession, has been returning to the points of departure, spreading out at the same time, eddying and curving in every direction, until it covers the whole area of these six eastern states. This intermingling of the original stock<sup>1</sup> has given us a population, in purity of Anglo-Saxon origin, not over-matched by any equal number of people to be found on either side of the Atlantic. There are

<sup>1</sup> There are few facts that strike the mind, at first blush, with more surprise, than the number of our ancestors of different blood, which may be traced in ten generations. As the increase is in geometrical progression and the ratio is 2, it is obvious that the numbers for the several generations would stand thus, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512. In ten generations we have 512 ancestors of separate or distinct lines. The blood of any one ancestor, ten generations removed, is to the whole as 1 to 512. But this is on the supposition that there have been no inter-marriages. The extent of the reduction by inter-marriage, could it be ascertained, would probably surprise us, as much as the rapid increase of the ancestral lines, and the dilution of blood as computed from the nominal head of the family. The transmission of family characteristics through numerous generations probably comes from education and personal influence or association, as much and perhaps more than from inheritance by blood.

The mingling of blood from so many sources suggests interesting questions of a hygienic nature. The average of health and longevity is determined, doubtless in a large degree, by the great number of sources from which the blood is derived. Diseases, which otherwise might be transmitted, are, by the entrance of new blood, oftentimes modified, and even eradicated from the system. On the other hand, if a hereditary disease or a tendency to it be introduced, there is a reasonable chance, by the entrance of new blood, for the constitution to bear up under its weight and finally to throw it off. There are, however, so many modifying circumstances involved, that no law as to results can be established, until the whole subject has been more carefully and thoroughly studied than it has been in the past. It is to be hoped that, when the local and family history of New-England shall be fully and systematically developed, our knowledge will approximate to scientific exactness on this interesting and important topic.

We beg to call the attention of the reader to the fact that the geometrical series, laid down in the early part of this note, does not express the whole number of our ancestors in ten generations irrespective of distinct lines of descent. The whole number is the sum of the series, omitting of course the first number. The sum of our ancestors in ten generations is therefore one thousand and twenty-two.



probably within these six states, more than two and a half millions of persons through whose veins the red line of descent may be traced, in different channels in each case, to more than two hundred of the early settlers. And while New-England has reduplicated herself, and has probably as many sons and daughters in the other states of the Union as she has at home, she nevertheless has this large population here upon the soil, bound together by extraordinary antecedents, woven into one great family by the strongest of human ties, association, education and blood. In other countries the culture of family history is limited almost entirely to fixing the inheritance of honorable titles, and of landed estates. Usage and law with us both render this motive inoperative and powerless. Our aims have a far deeper and wider scope. We desire not to be distinguished by titles or honors, unearned by ourselves, and which belong only to those who have gone before us. We recognize fully the principle, lurking in the lines of the poet,

*Et genus et proavos, et quæ non fecimus ipsi,  
Vix ea nostra voco.*

If there are any studies purely human, which tend to elevate and ennoble the nature of man, and lift it up to a truer and loftier type, they are such as lie within the domain of the family, where the gentlest and strongest elements of character mingle together, and are moulded more perfectly than anywhere else into a unity of feminine sweetness and manly dignity. In the culture of ancestral history, the affections and virtues that live and thrive within the precincts of the New-England home, are unfolded and expanded, running back, as it were through an electric cord, to the earliest generations, and down through numberless branches, gathering all within the sacred folds of a filial love and kinship. And when the work which we have begun shall have advanced to anything like general completeness, when the great majority of our family histories shall have been written, if the definition of the old Greek be true, that "history is philosophy teaching by example," we shall obtain, under the scrutiny of scientific grouping and arrangement, other lessons of great value and importance. We shall be able to estimate, with far greater precision than we now can, the influences upon man in his physical and moral character, of climate in its dryness, humidity and temperature; of locality, as on our rivers, on the hill-sides, and among the mountains,



in the country or in the city ; of education in the free school, under private tutorage, in the college, in classic or scientific courses ; and of a multitude of other particulars, that come within the purview of our historical investigations. We may go on, therefore, gentlemen and associates, in the work we have undertaken to do, with the consciousness at every step, that these investigations are expanding, mellowing and enriching our own characters, and, in their results, are transmitting a priceless legacy to others of the great New-England family to which we belong. And we may be assured, too, that at every stage of our progress, we shall have the benediction of our common Father, and the aids of the light and truth that come to us in the revelation of His Son, who never fails to bless all the good purposes and aims of man, and bring them, in the grand march of human events, to a noble and sublime result.



## APPENDIX.





# APPENDIX.

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## HISTORY

### OF THE SOCIETY'S ESTATE IN SOMERSET STREET, BOSTON

By the Rev. EDMUND F. SLAFTER, A.M.

It is not an uninteresting circumstance, that, in the closing days of the first Quarter of a Century of the Society's existence, it should crown all its other achievements by the purchase of a valuable estate on which to make for itself a permanent "home," and to carry on more successfully its future work. The importance of this step in our progress had been before the Society for several years. It had been alluded to in the annual addresses of our presidents, Dr. Winslow Lewis and the lamented Andrew. The Hon. Marshall P. Wilder made it a special theme in his inaugural, and again referred to this want in a graphic period in his annual address of 1869. In furtherance of the object a resolution was moved immediately after the address of 1869, by the Rev. Mr. Slafter, for the appointment of a committee, "whose duty it should be to take immediate measures for procuring the means and for the purchase or erection of a building suited to our present and prospective wants." The committee appointed was the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, the Hon. George B. Upton, Winslow Lewis, M.D., Gen. William Sutton, M. Denman Ross, Esq., Charles O. Whitmore, Esq., William B. Towne, Esq., Nathaniel Whiting, Esq., the Hon. Edward S. Tobey, the Hon. George C. Richardson and the Hon. Otis Norcross. A few weeks afterward the committee was called together for consultation and the formation of a plan of procedure. The present writer, though declining to be a member of the committee, was requested to be present at its meetings and to take part in its deliberations; and, at the special invitation of the chairman, he made a brief statement of the growth of the Society, and especially of its library and its prospective enlargement, together with the impracticability of accommodating, in a hired tenement, a library already numbering eight thousand, with a demand for its increase to fifty thousand volumes. It was the unanimous opinion of the committee that a building not only controlled but owned by the Society would be necessary to its future prosperity and success. A sub-committee was informally appointed for selecting a building that would meet the wants of the Society and that could be purchased for a sum not far from twenty thousand dollars. Several houses were examined, but none met with entire approbation except the one in Somerset Street, which they finally purchased. This came into the market unexpectedly, and to the knowledge of the sub-committee only a week before the sale. The committee was immediately called together, and M. Denman Ross, Esq. was

appointed to purchase, in their behalf, the estate at the auction, which was to take place on the 12th of March, 1870. The property was struck off to Mr. Ross at twenty thousand dollars, and on the 12th day of April following, the fee-simple was transferred and vested in the New-England Historic, Genealogical Society.

As the history of this estate may doubtless be interesting to some of the members of the Society, we propose to give a brief outline of it, dating back as far as it can be traced.

When Winthrop and his company came to Boston in 1630, they found the Rev. William Blaxton, a dissatisfied clergyman of the English church, in possession of the whole peninsula, and he had been in possession probably from five to ten years.

Soon after the arrival of the colonists an apportionment of the lands was made to them, but no systematic record of transfers was kept for the first twenty years. A BOOK OF POSSESSIONS is found, however, in the archives of the city of Boston, in which the estates of many of the early settlers are described, and their boundaries very imperfectly delineated. This book probably contains the record of the division of lands made as early as 1634, and is a sort of Doom's Day Book, into which some of the estates in Boston can now be clearly traced.

In 1650 the western part of Boston, now included within Beacon, Tremont, Court, Cambridge and Charles Streets, was known as the New Field. Within its limits at that period there were but few dwellings. These were on the street beginning at the corner of Beacon and Tremont Streets, extending through Court Street into Sudbury, as far, perhaps, as Hawkins Street. Sudbury is the only street in the whole city that bore the same name in 1650 that it does now, and it then embraced a part of Court Street, its south-eastern termination being directly opposite the lower avenue to Pemberton Square.

Let us see, then, who the owners of the estates bordering upon the New Field were, beginning at the corner of Beacon and Tremont Streets and proceeding into Sudbury Street. The first, according to the Book of Possessions, was John Coggan, the second Mr. Bellingham, the third Daniel Maud, the fourth the Rev. John Cotton, the fifth Edward Bendall, the sixth Robert Meeres, the seventh Robert Howens, the eighth George Hunne, the ninth John Newgate, and the tenth Henry Fane. There were dwelling houses upon most of these "possessions," with more or less of gardens, orchards and pastures, extending back upon Centry or Beacon hill.

Mr. John Newgate, at a very early period, came into possession of the lot on his southern boundary, belonging to George or Anne Hunne, and it was occupied by his son-in-law, Simon Lynde, who purchased the Howens lot, on the south of the Hunne property, of the sons of Robert Howens, in 1662-3; and at the death of Mr. Newgate, his father-in-law, Mr. Lynde became the proprietor of the three dwellings contiguous, and the lands belonging to them, embracing in all nearly five acres. This estate comprehended the Society's property in Somerset Street, as we shall show. John Newgate was a merchant and a man of some importance. He became a freeman in 1635; was a selectman of Boston; and a representative of the general court in 1638. He died in 1665. The valuation of his estate was £2496 : 13 : 11. He gave to his wife the use of his whole landed property during her life, but added, "if she should happen to marry," then she should have one third. To the poor he gave ten pounds, to be distributed by the deacons of the church. To his son-in-law Simon Lynde he gave, after the decease of his wife, the house in which he then resided, and likewise that which Mr. Lynde then occupied, with the orchards and lands adjoining, in all about four acres. At the death of Mrs. Newgate in 1679, as we

have already intimated, Mr. Simon Lynde became the owner of the three lots granted according to the Book of Possessions to Newgate, Hunne and Howens.

Simon Lynde came to Boston as early as 1650, and was then designated a Merchant of London. He carried on mercantile business in Boston and left a large estate for that period. He died near the close of the year 1686. The valuation of his estate was a little less than ten thousand pounds, and he had before this diminished his estate by large gifts to his children. His family plate was inventoried at £204, in weight 630 ounces. He left in "an iron chest," not less than \$1000 in silver coin. He provided in his will that the expenses of his son Benjamin, then in Harvard College, should be paid "till he commenced Master of Arts," out of his estate before division, "his learning being an honour to the family." His prophecy that his son's education would be "an honour to the family" was eminently fulfilled in history. The young under-graduate of Harvard became a distinguished barrister and chief-justice of Massachusetts; nor did the "honour to the family" cease with him. His son, Benjamin Junior, Harvard College 1718, succeeded his father in the same high office. Mr. Lynde left an annuity, to continue during his wife's life, to Harvard College, of five pounds. He also provided, that, if any of his children were dissatisfied with his will, and made any "Publique Contention and procedure at Law," they were to be deprived of any portion whatever. He gave to his son-in-law, Mr. George Pordage and his wife, being his daughter, and to her natural heirs, his new and old house in Boston in which he then resided, and the house at the gate which he had purchased of the Howens, together with the "lands and grounds" belonging to both. This property was described by definite bounds, and was the southeasterly half of the homestead, and contained an area of between two and three acres.

Mrs. Pordage continued to reside on this estate after the decease of her husband. Her daughter Hannah, her only child that lived to inherit property, married James Bowdoin, Esq., and the Hon. James Bowdoin, LL.D., Governor of Massachusetts in 1785 and 1786, was her son. Mrs. Bowdoin's daughter Elizabeth married the Hon. James Pitts, and they resided on the estate which Mrs. Pitts had in part inherited from her grand-father Simon Lynde. Mr. Pitts soon purchased the rights of the other heirs, and the title of the property became vested in him.

The Hon. James Pitts was a successful merchant, a gentleman of high respectability, and a prominent citizen. He died in 1776, and left a large landed estate in Boston and in the neighboring towns. In the division of his property the same year, the eldest son, John, received the mansion house and garden, and a strip of land called the pasture, adjoining to the western side of the garden, the whole bounded easterly by land of the Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq., southerly by the land late of James Pemberton, Esq., deceased, westerly by land of John Tyng, Esq., and northerly by Southack's lane or court.

On the 4th of May, 1796, Mr. John Pitts, of Tyngsborough, county of Middlesex, sold this estate, comprising about two acres and twenty-six perches, to James Tisdale, of Boston, merchant.

It will be observed, that the property falling to John Newgate by allotment, probably in 1634, and that purchased by him and his son-in-law from original possessors, had remained by inheritance in his family to this date, Mr. John Pitts being descended from him in the sixth generation.

Mr. Tisdale occupied the mansion house till his death, and his executor sold the estate to John Bowers, of Somerset, county of Bristol, Mass., on the 31st of May, 1800.



Mr. Bowers was a man of enterprise, and apparently purchased the estate "on speculation." He laid out a street thirty-six feet wide, extending from Southack's Court, now Howard Street, through the middle of it, and divided the land into seven portions lying on both sides of the street. The seventh division was on the west side of Somerset Street, beginning at the corner of Allston Street and extending south to the rear of the buildings on Ashburton Place. The street laid out by Mr. Bowers was named Somerset in obvious allusion to the town in which he resided; a name derived either from a county in the south of England, or the Protector Somerset, after whom is named Somerset House in London, where are the rooms, at the present time, of the Royal Society, and of the Society of Antiquaries.

On the 22d of July, 1801, Mr. Bowers sold the lot No. 7, as above described, to Dr. Abijah Cheever. On the first of May, 1804, Dr. Cheever conveyed by deed to Daniel Davis, Esq., the southern part of the lot, or that now occupied by the Society's building and the brick dwelling house adjoining on the south.

Up to this time no buildings had been erected upon the land, it having served as a pasture for at least a hundred and fifty years. Mr. Davis was a distinguished lawyer, and held the office of Solicitor General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 1800 to 1832. His only surviving son is the distinguished Rear-Admiral Charles H. Davis of the United States Navy, and a corresponding member of this Society. In 1805, having decided to make Boston his residence, Mr. Davis erected on the land which he had purchased the year previous, two brick dwelling houses, one of which he occupied as a homestead for many years. On the 19th of May, 1806, he sold the house contiguous to his own, No. 18 Somerset Street, to William Walter; and on the 15th of November, 1833, Mr. Walter's heirs conveyed it to Robert Edes; and on the 30th of June, 1834, Mr. Edes sold it to Messrs Charles Barnard and Abel Adams, of Boston, and on the 5th of May, 1835, they conveyed it to Solomon Davis Townsend, M.D. Dr. Townsend was a distinguished surgeon, and successful physician in Boston for a full half century. The house on this estate was his hospitable and genial home for more than thirty-four years. He died on the 19th of September, 1869. His son and executor, Thomas D. Townsend, of Boston, merchant, conveyed the estate to the Society, on the day before mentioned.

The dwelling house on the estate is of brick, strongly built, four stories in height, having a front of twenty-nine and a depth of forty-two feet and a fraction over, with a brick one-story extension in the rear of about twenty-one by thirteen feet. The whole frontage of the lot is a little more than thirty-eight feet, with a depth of over sixty-three feet, the whole area being 2219 5-12 feet.

A committee consisting of Dr. Winslow Lewis, the Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, Jeremiah Colburn, Esq., Dr. Wm. O. Johnson and James F. Hunnewell, Esq., appointed to recommend such changes as will be necessary to adapt the building to the purposes of the Society, have made a full report to the building committee: but we need not here refer to this report any farther than to state that it comprehends a plan which will be carried out by the committee, for a FIRE-PROOF APARTMENT, where our invaluable manuscripts and rare books will be perfectly safe, and free from exposure to fire.

As the corporation had no funds that could be appropriated in payment for the property and to make the requisite changes in the building, it became necessary to open a subscription to obtain the amount needed. Authorized by a vote of the Society, this onerous duty was undertaken by the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder and William B. Towne, Esq., aided by the Hon. George B. Upton. They have been received with



uniform cordiality, and their application has met a cheerful and liberal response. We need only add that our members are laid under lasting obligation to these gentlemen for their perseverance and energy in the discharge of this duty.

The names of the donors and the generous sums contributed by them, we give below as a record of permanent interest.

The aggregate of these gifts constitutes an appropriate offering to the Society with which to open the history of its SECOND QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

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FROM ITS ORGANIZATION IN JANUARY, 1845, TO JUNE, 1870.

[Compiled by JOHN WARD DEAN, A. M.]

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Col. Almon D. Hodges, of Roxbury, .....	" 1859, to " 1861
The Hon. Charles Hudson, A.M., of Boston, .....	" 1859, to " 1861
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Frederic Kidder, of Boston, .....	" 1862.
Jeremiah Colburn, A.M., of Boston, .....	" 1862.
William Reed Deane, of Brookline, .....	" 1862.
Joseph Palmer, M.D., of Boston, .....	" 1862.
*The Hon. George W. Messinger, of Boston, .....	" 1862, to Jan. 1868
*John Barstow, of Providence, R. I., .....	" 1862, to Mar. 1864
Edward Sprague Rand, Jr., A.M., of Dedham, .....	" 1863.
The Rev. Horatio Alger, Jr., A.B., of Cambridge, .....	Aug. 1863, to Jan. 1865
The Rev. Henry M. Dexter, D.D., of Roxbury, .....	Jan. 1864, to " 1867
William H. Whitmore, A.M., of Boston, .....	Feb. 1864.
The Rev. Frederic W. Holland, A.M., of Cambridge, .....	May 1864, to Jan. 1867
The Rev. Washington Gilbert, A.M., of Longwood, .....	Aug. 1865, to " 1866
*The Hon. John A. Andrew, LL.D., of Boston, .....	Jan. 1866, to Oct. 1867
The Hon. George Bruce Upton, of Boston, .....	" 1866.

The Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, A.M., of Boston,.....	Jan. 1867.
John Merrill Bradbury, of Boston,.....	" 1867, to Jan. 1870
Charles Wesley Tuttle, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1867.
The Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, of Boston,.....	" 1868.
The Rev. Dorus Clarke, D.D., of Boston,.....	" 1868.
William J. Foley, of Boston,.....	" 1869.
Henry Edwards, Esq., of Boston,.....	" 1869.
Col. Albert H. Hoyt, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1869.
The Rev. Caleb Davis Bradlee, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1869.
*The Hon. George W. Messinger, of Boston,.....	" 1869, to April 1870
The Hon. Edward S. Tobey, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1870.
Samuel Hidden Wentworth, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1870.

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

*Charles Ewer, Esq., of Boston,.....	Mar. 1847, to Jan. 1851
The Hon. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., of Boston,.....	" 1847, to " 1849
The Rev. Samuel H. Riddell, A.B., of Boston,.....	" 1847, to " 1851
*David Hamblen, of Boston,.....	Jan. 1849, to Oct. 1855
*William T. Harris, A.M., of Cambridge,.....	Feb. 1849, to " 1849
*The Rev. Joseph B. Felt, LL.D., of Boston,.....	Jan. 1850, to July 1852
The Hon. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., of Boston,.....	" 1850, to Jan. 1851
The Rev. Lucius R. Paige, D.D., of Cambridge,.....	" 1850, to " 1851
Charles Deane, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1851, to Oct. 1851
J. Wingate Thornton, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1851, to Mar. 1852
*William T. Harris, A.M., of Cambridge,.....	" 1851, to Oct. 1851
Frederic Kidder, of Boston,.....	Oct. 1851, to " 1855
The Hon. Timothy Farrar, LL.D., of Boston,.....	Nov. 1851, to Dec. 1854
William B. Trask, of Dorchester,.....	April 1852, to Oct. 1853
*Charles Mayo, of Boston,.....	Oct. 1852, to " 1853
*The Rev. William Jenks, D.D., LL.D., of Boston,.....	" 1853, to " 1858
Lyman Mason, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1853, to Dec. 1854
John Ward Dean, A.M., of Boston,.....	Dec. 1854.
William Reed Deane, of Brookline,.....	" 1854, to Oct. 1856
*Lemuel Shattuck, of Boston,.....	" 1854, to " 1856
The Rev. Alonzo Hall Quint, D.D., of Jamaica Plain,....	Oct. 1855, to " 1856
James Spear Loring, of Boston,.....	" 1855, to " 1856
The Hon. Francis Brinley, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1856, to " 1858
Charles H. Morse, of Cambridgeport,.....	" 1856, to " 1858
William H. Whitmore, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1856, to Nov. 1861
The Hon. Timothy Farrar, LL.D., of Boston,.....	" 1857, to Oct. 1858
William B. Trask, of Dorchester,.....	" 1858, to " 1867
The Hon. Charles Hudson, A.M., of Lexington,.....	Nov. 1861, to " 1863
The Rev. Elias Nason, A.M., of Exeter, N. H.,.....	" 1861, to " 1864
*George Wingate Chase, of Haverhill,.....	" 1861, to " 1862
William H. Whitmore, A.M., of Boston,.....	Oct. 1862.
William S. Appleton, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1863.
The Rev. Henry M. Dexter, D.D., of Roxbury,.....	" 1864, to Oct. 1867
The Rev. Elias Nason, A.M., of North Billerica,.....	" 1865, to " 1868
William B. Towne, Esq., of Brookline,.....	Nov. 1865.
Frederic Kidder, of Boston,.....	Oct. 1867, to Oct. 1868
Col. Albert H. Hoyt, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1867.

## COMMITTEE ON DONATIONS AND EXCHANGES.

James Spear Loring, of Boston,.....	May 1850, to Jan. 1852
Charles J. F. Binney, of Boston,.....	" 1850, to " 1852
The Hon. Amasa Walker, LL.D., of North Brookfield, ...	Jan. 1852, to " 1854
*John Goodwin Locke, of Boston,.....	" 1852, to " 1853
James Spear Loring, of Boston,.....	" 1853, to " 1854

## COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY.

Isaac Child, of Boston,.....	Jan. 1852, to Jan. 1856
*Artemas Simonds, of Boston,.....	" 1852, to Oct. 1854



Thomas B. Wyman, Jr., of Charlestown,.....	Jan. 1856, to	Jan. 1858
Charles H. Morse, of Cambridgeport,.....	" 1856, to	" 1857
William H. Whitmore, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1856, to	" 1857
William B. Trask, of Dorchester,.....	" 1856, to	" 1858
The Rev. Luther Farnham, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1856, to	July 1856
Dean Dudley, of Boston,.....	Oct. 1856, to	Jan. 1858
The Rev. Caleb D. Bradlee, A.M., of North Cambridge, ..	Jan. 1857, to	" 1858
*Sylvester Bliss, of Roxbury,.....	" 1857, to	" 1858
Thomas J. Whittemore, of Cambridge,.....	" 1858, to	" 1859
William Makepeace, of Boston,.....	" 1858, to	" 1859
Horace G. Barrows, M.D., of Boston,.....	" 1858, to	" 1859
Edward S. Rand, Jr., A.M., of Dedham,.....	" 1858, to	" 1859
Edward Holden, of Roxbury,.....	" 1858, to	" 1859
The Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D.D., of Jamaica Plain,.....	" 1859, to	" 1861
Samuel Barnum, A.M., of Jamaica Plain,.....	" 1859, to	" 1861
Thomas Waterman, of Boston,.....	" 1859, to	" 1863
J. Gardner White, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1859, to	" 1861
William B. Trask, of Dorchester,.....	" 1859, to	" 1861
Frederic Kidder, of Boston,.....	" 1861, to	" 1862
The Rev. James Thurston, A.M., of Belmont,.....	" 1861, to	" 1862
William S. Appleton, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1861, to	" 1864
John H. Shepard, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1861, to	" 1869
Jeremiah Colburn, A.M., of Brookline,.....	" 1862.	
*The Rev. Abner Morse, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1862, to	May 1865
Richard Briggs, of Brookline,.....	" 1863, to	Jan. 1864
Edward Rupert Humphreys, LL.D., of Boston,.....	" 1864, to	" 1867
George Mountfort, of Boston,.....	" 1864, to	" 1868
John K. Wiggin, of Boston,.....	" 1866, to	" 1870
Deloraine P. Corey, of Malden,.....	" 1867.	
Col. Albert H. Hoyt, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1868, to	Jan. 1869
Charles S. Fellows, of Boston,.....	" 1869, to	" 1870
William J. Foley, of Boston,.....	" 1869, to	Sept. 1869
The Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1870.	
Wm. Otis Johnson, M.D., of Boston,.....	" 1870.	
James F. Hunnewell, of Charlestown,.....	" 1870.	

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Gen. Samuel Andrews, of Roxbury,.....	Jan. 1852, to	Jan. 1856
*David Hamblen, of Boston,.....	" 1852, to	Nov. 1855
*Samuel Nicolson, of Boston,.....	" 1856, to	Jan. 1857
*Col. Samuel Swett, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1856, to	" 1857
Nathaniel Whiting, of Watertown,.....	" 1856, to	" 1857
*The Hon. George W. Messinger, of Boston,.....	" 1856, to	" 1857
John W. Dean, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1856, to	" 1857
John Wells Parker, of Roxbury,.....	" 1857, to	" 1858
Charles Henry Morse, of Cambridgeport,.....	" 1857, to	" 1858
William Makepeace, of Boston,.....	" 1857, to	" 1858
Thomas J. Whittemore, of Cambridge,.....	" 1857, to	" 1858
Isaac Child, of Boston,.....	" 1857, to	" 1860
*Sylvester Bliss, of Roxbury,.....	" 1858, to	" 1859
William Emerson Baker, of Boston,.....	" 1858, to	" 1861
*Jacob Quincy Kettelle, A.B., of Boston,.....	" 1858, to	" 1859
Charles Benjamin Richardson, of Boston,.....	" 1858, to	Nov. 1858
William Makepeace, of Boston,.....	" 1859, to	Jan. 1860
Jeremiah Colburn, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1859, to	" 1862
Thomas J. Whittemore, of Cambridge,.....	" 1859, to	" 1863
William B. Towne, of Brookline,.....	" 1860.	
*The Hon. George W. Messinger, of Boston,.....	" 1860, to	April 1870
John Tisdale Bradlee, of Boston,.....	" 1861, to	Jan. 1864
Frederic Kidder, of Boston,.....	" 1862, to	" 1869
John Merrill Bradbury, of Boston,.....	" 1863, to	" 1867

John Wilson Candler, of Brookline,.....	Jan. 1864, to Jan. 1869
The Hon. George C. Richardson, of Boston,.....	" 1867, to " 1869
Henry Edwards, Esq., of Boston,.....	" 1869.
The Hon. Charles B. Hall, of Boston,.....	" 1869.
George William Bond, of West Roxbury,.....	" 1869.
Percival Lowell Everett, of Boston,.....	" 1870.

## COMMITTEE ON PAPERS AND ESSAYS.

*The Rev. Martin Moore, A.M., of Boston,.....	Mar. 1860, to Jan. 1861
The Rev. Lucius R. Paige, D.D., of Cambridge,.....	" 1860, to " 1861
William Reed Deane, of Brookline,.....	" 1860.
The Rev. Frederic W. Holland, A.M., of Dorchester,....	" 1860, to Jan. 1865
Thomas Cushing, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1860, to " 1864
The Rev. Washington Gilbert, A.M., of West Newton,...	Jan. 1861, to " 1870
John Gardner White, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1861, to " 1864
The Hon. Charles Hudson, A.M., of Lexington,.....	" 1864.
The Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1864, to Jan. 1867
The Rev. Dorus Clarke, D.D., of Waltham,.....	" 1865, to " 1868
David Pulsifer, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1867, to " 1869
Capt. George Henry Preble, U.S.N., of Charlestown,....	" 1868.
John Ward Dean, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1870.
The Rev. Increase Niles Tarbox, D.D., of Boston,.....	" 1870.

## COMMITTEE ON HERALDRY.

William Henry Whitmore, A.M., of Boston,.....	Feb. 1864.
Abner C. Goodell, Jr., A.M., of Salem,.....	" 1864.
The Rev. William S. Bartlet, A.M., of Chelsea,.....	" 1864, to Jan. 1865
Augustus T. Perkins, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1864.
William S. Appleton, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1864.
Edward S. Rand, Jr., A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1870.

## TRUSTEES OF FUNDS.

## THE BOND FUND.

Col. Almon Danforth Hodges, of Roxbury,.....	July 1859.
Frederic Kidder, of Boston,.....	" 1859.
John Ward Dean, A.M., of Boston,.....	" 1859, to Jan. 1863
Thomas Waterman, of Boston,.....	Jan. 1863.

## THE BARSTOW FUND.

William B. Towne, of Brookline,.....	May 1862.
Col. Almon Danforth Hodges, of Roxbury,.....	" 1862.
J. Tisdale Bradlee, of Boston,.....	" 1862, to Jan. 1864
The Hon. Charles B. Hall, of Boston,.....	Jan. 1865.

## THE TOWNE MEMORIAL FUND.

William B. Towne, of Brookline,.....	Jan. 1864.
Col. Almon Danforth Hodges, of Roxbury,.....	" 1864.
The Hon. Charles B. Hall, of Boston,.....	" 1865.

## THE CUSHMAN GENEALOGICAL FUND.

Col. Almon Danforth Hodges, of Roxbury,.....	Jan. 1866.
Frederic Kidder, of Boston,.....	" 1866.
Thomas Waterman, of Boston,.....	" 1866.

## LIFE-MEMBERS

OF THE SOCIETY, TO JUNE, 1870.

Compiled by WILLIAM B. TOWNE, Esq.

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|---|--|
| <p><b>1857.</b><br/> *Benjamin Vinton French, <i>Braintree.</i></p> <p><b>1858.</b><br/> Edmund Bachelder Dearborn, <i>Boston.</i><br/> William Blake Trask, <i>Dorchester.</i><br/> Thomas Bellows Wyman, Jr., <i>Charlestown.</i></p> <p><b>1859.</b><br/> John Ward Dean, A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Col. Almon D. Hodges, <i>Roxbury.</i></p> <p><b>1860.</b><br/> *John Barstow, <i>Providence, R. I.</i><br/> Isaac Child, <i>Boston.</i><br/> *Hon. George W. Messinger, <i>Boston.</i><br/> William Blanchard Towne, <i>Brookline.</i></p> <p><b>1861.</b><br/> *Hon. Calvin Fletcher, A.M., <i>Indianapolis, In.</i><br/> Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D.D., <i>New-Bedford.</i></p> <p><b>1862.</b><br/> *Nathan'l Chauncey, A.M., <i>Philadelphia, Pa.</i><br/> Edward Franklin Everett, A.M., <i>Charlestown.</i><br/> Samuel T. Parker, <i>South Reading.</i></p> <p><b>1863.</b><br/> *Hon. John Albion Andrew, LL.D., <i>Boston.</i><br/> William Appleton, <i>Boston.</i><br/> Hon. John Israel Baker, <i>Beverly.</i><br/> William Emerson Baker, <i>Boston.</i><br/> *Hon. Samuel Dana Bell, LL.D., <i>Manchester, N. H.</i></p> <p>George Baty Blake, <i>Brookline.</i><br/> George D. B. Blanchard, <i>Malden.</i><br/> John Merrill Bradbury, <i>Boston.</i><br/> Jonathan Brown Bright, <i>Waltham.</i><br/> Charles Chauncey Burr, <i>Newton.</i><br/> Alvah Augustus Burrage, <i>Boston.</i><br/> John Wilson Candler, <i>Brookline.</i><br/> *Thomas Chadbourne, M.D., <i>Concord, N. H.</i><br/> John Cummings, Jr., <i>Woburn.</i><br/> William Reed Deane, <i>Brookline.</i><br/> Abner Cheney Goodell, Jr., A.M., <i>Salem.</i><br/> William Whitwell Greenough, A.B., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Hon. Charles Bingley Hall, <i>Boston.</i><br/> Wellington La Garoun Hunt, <i>Boston.</i><br/> Martin M. Kellogg, <i>Boston.</i><br/> Frederic Kidder, <i>Boston.</i><br/> John R. Kimball, <i>Woburn.</i><br/> Amos Adams Lawrence, A.M., <i>Brookline.</i><br/> Winslow Lewis, A.M., M.D., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Hon. Fred. Walker Lincoln, Jr., A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Hugh Montgomery, <i>Boston.</i><br/> James Read, <i>Boston.</i></p> | <p>Hon. George C. Richardson, <i>Boston.</i><br/> John Wingate Thornton, A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Hon. George Bruce Upton, <i>Boston.</i><br/> Rev. John Adams Vinton, A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> *John Wright Warren, M.D., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Nehemiah Washburn, <i>Brookline.</i><br/> Henry Austin Whitney, A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Hon. Marshall Pinckney Wilder, <i>Dorchester.</i><br/> Hon. Moses Thompson Willard, M.D., <i>Concord, N. H.</i></p> <p><b>1864.</b><br/> Ebenezer Alden, A.M., M.D., <i>Randolph.</i><br/> William Sumner Appleton, A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Henry B. Humphrey, <i>Thomaston, Me.</i><br/> Manning Leonard, <i>Southbridge.</i><br/> Joel Munsell, <i>Albany, N. Y.</i><br/> Benjamin B. Torrey, <i>Boston.</i><br/> Andrew Henshaw Ward, <i>Newton.</i></p> <p><b>1865.</b><br/> Salomon Alofsen, <i>Jersey City, N. J.</i><br/> Jeremiah Colburn, A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> *George J. Fiske, <i>Boston.</i><br/> Rev. Richard M. Hodges, A.M., <i>Cambridge.</i><br/> Samuel H. Parsons, A.M., <i>Middletown, Ct.</i><br/> Edward Sprague Rand, A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Thomas Spooner, <i>Reading, Ohio.</i><br/> Elbridge Wason, <i>Brookline.</i><br/> Hon. John Wentworth, LL.D., <i>Chicago, Ill.</i><br/> Edward C. Wilson, <i>Brookline.</i></p> <p><b>1866.</b><br/> James Madison Beebe, <i>Boston.</i><br/> George Chandler, M.D., <i>Worcester.</i><br/> Peter Hobart, Jr., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Rev. Thos. R. Lambert, D.D., <i>Charlestown.</i><br/> John Hannibal Sheppard, A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Hon. Ginery Twichell, <i>Brookline.</i><br/> John Gardner White, A.M., <i>Boston.</i></p> <p><b>1867.</b><br/> Ledyard Bill, <i>New-York.</i><br/> Rev. Caleb Davis Bradlee, A.M., <i>Boston.</i><br/> Rev. Jas. Howard Means, A.M., <i>Dorchester.</i><br/> Rev. Elias Nason, A.M., <i>Billerica.</i></p> <p><b>1868.</b><br/> Henry Truman Beckwith, <i>Providence, R. I.</i><br/> Hon. Wm. A. Buckingham, LL.D., <i>Norwich, Ct.</i><br/> Hon. Alex. H. Bullock, LL.D., <i>Worcester.</i><br/> Edward Payson Burnham, <i>Saco, Me.</i><br/> Hon. Alvah Crocker, <i>Fitchburg.</i><br/> *Geo. Wolff Fahnestock, <i>Philadelphia, Pa.</i></p> |
|---|--|

Jonathan French,	<i>Boston.</i>	Gardner Chilson,	<i>Boston.</i>
David Parsons Holton, M.D.,	<i>New-York.</i>	His Excellency William Claflin,	<i>Boston.</i>
Albert Harrison Hoyt, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>	Col. William W. Clapp,	<i>Boston.</i>
Hon. Otis Norcross,	<i>Boston.</i>	Rev. Dorus Clarke, D.D.,	<i>Boston.</i>
John Parker Towne, A.B.,	<i>Edgerton, Wis.</i>	Henry Martyn Clarke,	<i>Boston.</i>
Charles W. Tuttle, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>	James W. Clark,	<i>Framingham.</i>
Joseph Harrison Ward,	<i>Boston.</i>	Samuel Crocker Cobb,	<i>Boston.</i>
Samuel Hidden Wentworth, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>	Hon. Gerry W. Cochrane,	<i>Boston.</i>
*Rev. Pliny H. White, A.M.,	<i>Coventry, Vt.</i>	Robert Codman, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>
Nathaniel Whiting,	<i>Watertown.</i>	William E. Coffin,	<i>Boston.</i>
Charles O. Whitmore,	<i>Boston.</i>	Elisha S. Converse,	<i>Malden.</i>
John Greenleaf Whittier, A.M.,	<i>Amesbury.</i>	James C. Converse	<i>Boston.</i>
		James W. Converse,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Charles Cowley,	<i>Lowell.</i>

## 1869.

Hon. Francis Bassett, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>	Abner Curtis,	<i>East Abington.</i>
Eliphalet W. Blatchford,	<i>Chicago, Ill.</i>	Nathaniel Curtis, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>
Benjamin F. Burgess,	<i>Boston.</i>	Ebenezer Dale,	<i>Boston.</i>
Peter Butler,	<i>Boston.</i>	Theron J. Dale,	<i>Boston.</i>
Rev. James Freeman Clarke, D.D.,	<i>Boston.</i>	Francis Dane,	<i>Boston.</i>
Hon. Albert Fearing,	<i>Boston.</i>	John N. Dennison,	<i>Boston.</i>
John Foster,	<i>Boston.</i>	Daniel Denny,	<i>Boston.</i>
Hon. Alexander H. Holly,	<i>Salisbury, Ct.</i>	George P. Denny,	<i>Boston.</i>
Charles D. Homans, A.M., M.D.,	<i>Boston.</i>	Oliver Ditson,	<i>Boston.</i>
Eben D. Jordan,	<i>Boston.</i>	Samuel Downer,	<i>Boston.</i>
George H. Kuhn,	<i>Boston.</i>	Nathan Durfee, M.D.,	<i>Fall River.</i>
Edward Lawrence,	<i>Charlestown.</i>	Harry Herbert Edes,	<i>Charlestown.</i>
James L. Little,	<i>Boston.</i>	Francis F. Emery,	<i>Boston.</i>
Capt. Geo. Henry Preble, U.S.N.	<i>Charlestown.</i>	Hon. Isaac Emery,	<i>Boston.</i>
Col. James W. Sever, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>	William Endicott, Jr.,	<i>Boston.</i>
Rev. Carlos Slafter, A.M.,	<i>Dedham.</i>	Percival Lowell Everett,	<i>Boston.</i>
Nathaniel Thayer, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>	Ezra Farnsworth,	<i>Boston.</i>
William Thomas,	<i>Boston.</i>	Ebenezer T. Farrington,	<i>West Roxbury.</i>
William W. Tucker, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>	Charles Faulkner,	<i>Boston.</i>
Cyrus Woodman, A.M.,	<i>Cambridge.</i>	Warren Fisher, Jr.,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Jonas Fitch,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Charles L. Flint, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>
		John S. Fogg,	<i>South Weymouth.</i>
		Charles W. Freeland,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Nathan B. Gibbs,	<i>Boston.</i>
		William T. Glidden,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Capt. W. F. Goodwin, U.S.A.,	<i>Concord, N. H.</i>
		Samuel H. Gookin,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Samuel Abbott Green, M.D.,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Charles H. Guild,	<i>East Somerville.</i>
		Andrew T. Hall,	<i>Boston.</i>
		George W. Harding,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Leonard B. Harrington,	<i>Salem.</i>
		James Haughton,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Franklin Haven,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Henry P. Haven,	<i>New London, Ct.</i>
		John Heard,	<i>Boston.</i>
		John Hill,	<i>Stoneham.</i>
		William Hilton,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Hon. Alexander H. Holly,	<i>Salisbury, Ct.</i>
		William S. Houghton,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Gen. Asa Howland,	<i>Conway.</i>
		Francis J. Humphrey,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Hollis H. Hunnewell,	<i>Boston.</i>
		James F. Hunnewell,	<i>Charlestown.</i>
		Francis Jaques,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Francis M. Johnson,	<i>Newton.</i>
		Samuel Johnson,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Frederick Jones,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Rev. Henry Jones,	<i>Bridgeport, Ct.</i>
		Josiah M. Jones,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Nahum Jones,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Edward Kidder,	<i>Wilmington, N. C.</i>
		Henry P. Kidder,	<i>Boston.</i>
		Daniel Kimball,	<i>Boston.</i>
		M. Day Kimball,	<i>Boston.</i>

## 1870.

Alvin Adams,	<i>Watertown.</i>		
James Adams, Jr.	<i>Charlestown.</i>		
John L. Alexander, A.M., M.D.,	<i>Belmont.</i>		
Hon. Oakes Ames,	<i>North Easton.</i>		
Oliver Ames,	<i>North Easton.</i>		
Holmes Ammidown,	<i>New-York.</i>		
William T. Andrews, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Samuel Atherton,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Abraham Avery,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Josiah G. Bachelder,	<i>Brookline.</i>		
Richard Baker, Jr.,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Josiah Bardwell,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Benjamin E. Bates,	<i>Boston.</i>		
A. H. Batcheller,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Alexander Beal,	<i>Boston.</i>		
James H. Beal,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Aaron H. Bean,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Hon. Charles H. Bell, A.M.,	<i>Exeter, N. H.</i>		
Cornelius N. Bliss,	<i>New-York.</i>		
Gardner Brewer,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Hon. Edward Brooks, A.M.,	<i>Boston.</i>		
John W. Brooks,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Haydn Brown,	<i>West Newbury.</i>		
Hon. Edwin H. Bugbee,	<i>Killingly, Conn.</i>		
William A. Burke,	<i>Lowell.</i>		
Maj. George O. Carpenter,	<i>Boston.</i>		
Dexter H. Chamberlain,	<i>West Roxbury.</i>		
Nathaniel G. Chapin,	<i>Boston.</i>		
George B. Chase,	<i>Boston.</i>		
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DISCOURSE

DELIVERED AT THE

NEW-ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

BOSTON, MARCH 18, 1850.

IN THE CHURCH OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

OF ITS INSTITUTION

BY THE REV. EDMUND F. BLAUGHTON, A.M.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BOSTON.

WITH PROCEEDINGS AND ADDRESS



BOSTON:

NEW-ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

1850.



